

THE  
**Unfortunate Englishmen;**

OR, A FAITHFUL  
NARRATIVE  
OF THE  
DISTRESSES AND ADVENTURES  
OF  
**JOHN COCKBURN,**

AND  
FIVE OTHER ENGLISH MARINERS;

VIZ.

Thomas Bounce, John Holland, Richard  
Banister, John Balman, and Thomas  
Robinson,

WHO WERE TAKEN BY A

Spanish Guarda Costa, in the John and Anne,  
Edward Burt, Master, and set on Shore at  
a Place called *Porto Cavallo*, naked and  
wounded:

CONTAINING

A JOURNEY over Land from the Gulph of HONDURAS  
to the GREAT SOUTH SEA, wherein are some new  
and very useful Discoveries of the Inland of those  
almost unknown Parts of America:

AS ALSO

An Account of the Manners, Customs, and Behaviour  
of the several Indians inhabiting a Tract of Land  
of 2400 Miles; particularly of their Dispositions  
towards the SPANIARDS and ENGLISH.

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T H E

P R E F A C E.

THE ensuing history is so full of extraordinary events, surprising deliverances, and such a variety of accidents, that there is no question but the reader will be most agreeably amused and entertained in the perusal of it. The character of the author, which is too well established to suspect him guilty of any fallacy, secures the work from the imputation of fabulous; and the narration itself is told in so free and easy a stile, that the meanest capacity will find no difficulty in understanding every part of it. Every page he reads will afford delight and wonder, and the farther he proceeds the more will he be astonished at the surprising occurrences he meets with. But this is not all, the story is full of instruction; and whoever reads it with attention may improve his understanding, at the same time that he pleases his fancy. Here is a kind of a new world laid open to his view; a strange people with as strange customs, laws, and manners;

places we never heard of before, nor ever should, had the Spaniards been so cunning as to have prevented Mr. COCKBURN from finishing his travels. But providence brought him safe through all the imminent dangers he encountered, with a design, no doubt, that by his information we might be better acquainted with those hitherto unknown countries; and it is our fault if we do not improve the lights here given us to a national advantage. The Spaniard is more jealous of his Indies than of his own native country; and with reason, for from thence only it is he supports his grandeur in Europe. We need not therefore wonder that he keeps so jealous an eye upon every stranger who presumes but to set foot on those remote regions. But it is hoped Englishmen will not be always blind to their own interest; but let the examples of their brave ancestors, the Drakes, Hawkinses, Forbishers, Raleighs, &c. animate them to some noble enterprize, that shall make the Spaniard tremble, and fill every English heart with joy and gladness.

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T H E

UNFORTUNATE ENGLISHMEN.

ON the eighteenth of January, in the year 1730, we embarked on board the JOHN and ANNE, EDWARD BURT, Master, bound from LONDON to JAMAICA, and elsewhere. In about forty-nine days after our departure from London we arrived at Bluefield, in Jamaica, where we wooded and watered our ship, and on the nineteenth of March following set sail from thence to the southward; March twenty-three, being in the latitude of sixteen north, and near an island, called Swan Island, about four o'clock in the afternoon we discovered two sloops making sail after us. The next morning one of them, called The Two Brothers, came up with us. The vessel was Rhode-Island built, with eighteen guns, and about ninety men, mostly Spaniards, and commanded by Captain Johnson the pirate, an Englishman, and Pedro Polias, a Spaniard. We had not above twenty-five men on board of us, and only eight carriage and ten swivel guns, besides some small arms. At first they shewed us no colours, but at length hoisted a Spanish

## 6 THE UNFORTUNATE

flag, and fired at us. As we had all along been apprehensive we were going to be attacked, so we had cleared our ship, and put ourselves into a condition to make the best defence we could, and therefore returned the assault by giving them a broadside, and several vollies of small shot; whereupon we came to an engagement, fighting board and board near the space of five hours, till being boarded on the starboard quarter, we were obliged to quit the deck, and fly to close quarters; but as most of our men were already wounded, we were in no way to make any long resistance in this posture; but we were resolved to keep the enemy off as long as possible, and not yield, while we were able to hold a weapon in our hands, and thus we defended ourselves for some time. At last our Captain seeing us much overpowered, and that it was in vain for men in our condition to attempt any thing farther, thought it most expedient to call for quarter, which they said they were willing to give if we would strike. Upon which we laid down our arms, and they immediately boarded us, which they had no sooner done than, with sword in hand, they laid about them on all sides, cutting and slashing us in a most barbarous manner, and, not satisfied with that, swore bitterly they would hang every soul of us. We were then stripped stark-naked, and two of them running up to the main-



main-yard, brought down the fludding-fail-tacks for that purpose. Then they commanded us up to the quarter-deck, and ordered two negroe-men to hang us up by two and two at a time.

Now the first man they designed to sacrifice to their cruelty was Mr. Ball, who seemed very uneasy at his approaching fate, and could not help intimating, that he thought our present calamities were, in a great measure, owing to Captain Burt, by his having been too ready to deliver up the ship; for, says he, "had we continued the engagement but a few minutes longer, which we might have done, and was what I so much desired, we, in all probability, should never have come to this end." He spoke after this manner, because we found, after we were taken, that had we done as he said the Spaniards must have yielded to us, they having no more than eight shot left.

But this was no time for disputes, for we were now (according to all human probability, about to resign our last breath, and thought of nothing less than a reversing of the rigorous sentence pronounced against us. Just then going to be executed, Captain Johnson and one Echlin, another Englishman, that bore a great sway over their companions, strenuously and at once interposed. When these came to our relief, they found Ball with a halter about his neck ready to be

be hoisted up to the yard-arm, and the rest surrounded by several men that were to see us served in the same manner. To these they rushed up, and in a violent rage demanded what they intended to do with us, saying withal, " They thought we had been used cruelly enough already, and rather than they would suffer any farther violence to be done us they would lose every drop of blood in their bodies." The others seeing how resolutely bent they were to save us, and knowing them to be men of desperate dispositions, and whatever they took in hand they would perform to the utmost of their power, thought fit to desist from their enterprize, lest they should raise such a disturbance as might not be easily appeased; and thus were we suddenly, and in a manner miraculously, delivered from death, when all hope or expectation of life had vanished.

But soon after this they came to a serious debate among themselves how to dispose of us without taking away our lives, concluding it not to be safe to let so many men remain among them, who possibly, upon some turn of fortune, might be revenged. They therefore resolved, that the best way to get rid of us would be to maroon us, that is, set us ashore on some desolate country, and there let us shift as we could.

Here it might not be improper to give some account of a poor unfortunate lady, whose

whose ill chance it was to accompany her husband in this unfortunate voyage. She was the wife of our merchant, Mr. Groves, who and the surgeon of the ship were the only persons belonging to us that immediately lost their lives in the engagement. This lady was young, handsome, and of a very courteous and affable carriage; and being big with child, all the ship's company were under a more than ordinary concern on her account. She had been in the hold all the time of our engagement, and as yet knew nothing of her husband's death, or our common disaster; but, as there was a necessity for her being let into her present condition, and our time and circumstances not admitting of ceremony, I acquainted her of Mr. Groves's death, the taking of the ship, and the ill usage we had all received. Upon this she immediately dropped down into a swoon, and was a long time ere she recovered her senses, which she had no sooner done but several Spaniards came down with cutlasses in their hands, and drove her up before them upon deck, and then, in a most brutal manner, fell to tearing the cloaths off her back, even till they had stripped her in a manner naked, and in that condition carried her into their sloop, where Pedro Polias their Captain received her, and immediately carried her into the great cabin, and there with horrible oaths and curses insolently

ly assaulted her chastity. The grief that had already seized her, who but some few hours before believed herself in a happy and flourishing condition, together with this insult on her present deplorable state, drove her beyond all patience; and her loud exclamations brought Johnson into the cabbin. He seeing her in such agonies and naked, it wrought on his rough disposition, insomuch, that he ran stamping about with a pistol in his hand, and swearing, that if any one should dare to treat her in such an inhuman manner, or ever attempt the least violence upon her, he would shoot him through the head. Then he commanded every one in the vessel to restore what they had taken from her, which they instantly did, not only what they had violently torn off her, but all the wearing apparel she had on board; after which he endeavoured to get her all the consolation in his power, promising to protect her as long as she continued with him, but how long that was I know not, or where they carried her, or how they disposed of her afterwards, I never heard.

Johnson is reckoned a man of great courage and bravery, and for these qualifications is famous in many parts of America, where he is known by the name of Henrique the Englishman, though he was born in the North of Ireland. Though he had but one hand, he fires a piece very dextrously, laying the barrel upon his stump, and drawing the trigger



trigger with his right-hand. In most of our American plantations rewards are bid for taking him, but I am apt to think that will never be whilst he is alive; for I remember he said soon after he boarded us (speaking of the great straits they were driven to for want of ammunition) that, had we held out five minutes longer, he would have shot himself through the head, being resolved that no man should ever take him alive: it seems he always carried two pistols about him ready charged in case of a surprisal.

But, to return to our own particular affairs: after we were released from death in the manner before related, Johnson sent orders for me and two more of my shipmates to go on board their sloop, to mend their sails, and knot their rigging: but we were not suffered to continue long in that employment; for the next day came three men with a piragua, who (when they had taken us out of the sloop) rowed along-side our ship, and took in ten more of our company, whose names were Richard Banister, Thomas Rounce, John Holland, Thomas Robinson, John Balmain, John Allen, Thomas Whitehead, William Dennis, John Mingo, and Lawrence Lomber. Their orders ran to carry us to a little desolate island at some distance off, where, putting us ashore, they left us. After we had been upon this island two hours, where we could perceive no possibility

sibility of subsistence, all of us imagining we must inevitably perish there, and inwardly lamenting our hard fate, though we forbore to discourage one another by fruitless moans, on a sudden (to our great surprize) we saw the boat making towards us which had brought us thither: the sight of which raised different conjectures in our minds, supposing they had either relented, and were sending to fetch us back to the ship, or else that they had resolved to dispatch us immediately on the spot; but upon their approach we found ourselves both ways mistaken; for, presenting a naked man to us, whom they had brought under a strong guard, they told us, their business was only to add one more to our number, and then throwing us some small pieces of beef, and some biscuits, in a disdainful manner, which, they said, was more than we deserved, they put off again.

The person whom they brought to us proved to be the gunner of their own sloop, and who (after they had boarded us) was one of the most hotly bent against us. This put us into a fresh consternation. I asked him if he could speak English? he answered no; but could talk Spanish and Italian very well, being a Neapolitan by birth. Then he proceeded to inform us, that upon a grand quarrel between his two commanders and himself about sharing their plunder (although he was a very daring fellow, and very useful to them) they had both determined

determined to maroon him in the same manner they had done us ; he then fell to exclaiming grievously against their ingratitude for his past services, and uttered a thousand bitter curses on himself if he did not speedily find out the means to be revenged, which seemed to us to be idle talk and vain threats, there being no prospect we should ever be able to reach the Continent, though but at a little distance, and without which there was no hope. He said, " He believed he was much better acquainted with the island than we, and asked if there were any among us that could swim well ? I told him I could, and was ready to attempt any thing practicable towards the preservation of us all ; but, as to the rest, they were most of them wounded, and all incapacitated for desperate undertakings, nor thought of any thing but that they should die there." Then he and I agreed to go to the northern part of the island, and after a walk of about six hours we came to a point of land which ran pretty far into the sea ; the water between this place and the Continent is very full of alligators, and about a Spanish mile over. He said, " If it was possible for us to swim to the main land, he knew several gentlemen of fortune there (meaning pirates, who commonly make that place their general rendezvous) and that it was most likely we might get a canoe of them to transport the

rest of my shipmates over." We were not long before we came to a resolution ; and so taking each other by the hand we leaped into the water, and swam away stoutly. We had not gone far before I very narrowly escaped having my leg bit off by an alligator, but by the assistance of divine providence we got safe on the other shore. Being thus landed at a place called Porto Cavello, in the latitude of about sixteen degrees north, he led me about three miles through a large wood, till we came to a great lagoon, that is, a flow of water from the sea, passing between the mountains. As we waded up this lagoon, we saw two men (newly murdered) lying on the shore, whom by their faces and garb I knew to be Englishmen. This tragical spectacle threw me into greater surprise and horror than I had ever yet been in ; but he perceiving the consternation I was in, bade me not to fear, and swore by all that is sacred no man should hurt me ; saying, that those my countrymen were only hid, which is a term made use of among pirates on the like occasion.

Here we passed by great numbers of mangroves, which are bodies of trees with their branches, but without leaves ; there are oysters in abundance sticking upon them, as well tasted as any we have in England ; they seem to grow in clusters on the branches ; the reason is, the sea sometimes flows almost



as high as the tops of these trees, and leaves the spawn of that fish behind it. We found several long boats sunk in this place; and on the shore, at a distance, we saw a large tent, and a great many men with guns planted thick round them. When we came within hearing, my friend, as I may now stile him, called out, desiring them not to shoot at us, telling his name, which I perceived was well known to them. Upon their promise of not firing, we marched up arm in arm naked as we were; they inquired how we came there in that manner, and what dog he had brought with him? Upon answering I was an Englishman lately taken with our ship and crew by Henricus Johnson and Pedro Polias, and that they had marooned me with twelve more, which he had just left on the island; and adding an account of their ill usage of himself, they immediately fell to cursing, swearing, and demeaning themselves in all respects (as I thought) like so many furies of hell, offering to shoot me. With that turning swiftly about, he snatched a pair of pistols from a negroe who stood near him, and then swore as vehemently as they, that the first man that offered the least injury to me, he would that moment shoot through the head, and continued his rant till he had bullied them into a seeming good temper; saying, "I was one of those who had behaved bravely in defending our ship five hours

against them, at great odds; and that he was resolutely bent not to see me die now like a scoundrel, while he looked tamely on." After this he called for rum, and drank it very plentifully, and then threw himself on his face, and fell fast asleep; but, however, had the precaution to keep his new-acquired arms under him, that he might be prepared in case of an assault.

Whilst he slept, which was about half an hour, I sat on the trunk of a tree, at a little distance, dreading what this devilish crew (which was composed of almost all nations) might determine to do with me; but nothing being attempted, I had leisure to observe abundance of goods of all sorts lying in confused heaps on the ground, with broken masts, tattered sails, and all sorts of tackling, with many other apparent signs of great rapine and violence.

No sooner did my friend the gunner awake, but he began to swear lustily, that some of them should take a canoe, and go with him to fetch over the rest of the company from the island. At first they protested, that if any of the people he mentioned should dare to set foot where they were, it should cost them their lives; but after debating the matter a while, they began to alter their minds, and at last agreed that some of them should go with him. But my misfortune was to be left behind with the rest of the society  
till

till their return, who, as soon as my friend was gone, ordered me to sit down at a distance, and threatened, if I stirred hand or foot, I was a dead man: this was indeed as great punishment as could well have been inflicted; because, under such a restraint, I was no way able to keep off the vermin, such as muskitoes, and great yellow ants, as large as our bees, which stung to that degree, as soon made me all of a gore of blood; but this was what my tormentors (for so I may call them) were not so much exposed to, being cloathed, and having other conveniences to keep off such filth. After some time, they ordered me to go in a canoe, with two of their own people, up the lagoon, to fetch water out of a large piragua that mounted ten pedteroes, and would sometimes carry forty men, with which I supposed they might take ships. It lay at anchor concealed amongst mangroves, that grew so thick about it, that it had been impossible for strangers to have found it out. After we returned with our lading, I took my station as before, not daring to stir without a command so to do; and I believe, had the bravest man living been in my circumstances, he would have yielded as implicitly to what had been imposed on him.

Before this recruit of water, I suppose, it was very scarce with them; for on my offering to drink out of a calabash, a negroe

did actually shoot at me. Another negroe there was who could speak English, and said, he was born at Jamaica, and therefore challenged me as his countryman. This man advised me as a friend to go hide myself in the woods, saying, "They would all get drunk, and knock me on the head, and that he, having been taken by them three years before, was often forced to do so:" but I thought it more adviseable to run the hazard of dying by their hands, than, by endeavouring to prolong a miserable life, perish in the woods, or be torn in pieces by wild beasts.

About two o'clock the next morning arrived all our men, who had been left at Tyger-Island, so called from the great number of those creatures in the woods there; from the time I left them they despaired of ever seeing me or the face of mankind any more; nor were we a little rejoiced at this meeting, forlorn as we were, not a man of us having a rag to cover him but Mr. Rounce, whose shirt was so bloody, by reason of his many wounds, that it could not be got off; and it is remarkable, that most of his wounds had been given him by the very man whom Providence had ordained to be the means of our deliverance.

But as pleased as we were at the sight of each other, there was one thing which troubled us exceedingly: our protector was missing



ing, and, without his aid, it seemed impossible to wade through the many difficulties which we knew must needs occur to us. It seems, after he had been with the canoe, and taken our people off the island, he made the men row him about in search of the vessel from whence he had been discarded, and happening to meet with her, he prevailed with the two captains to receive him again; and then ordered the men to return to the place where they left me, desiring them to direct us to any part of the country we should be minded to go to; and this was the last kind office we received from this generous man. And here I could not help reflecting on the wonderful conversion wrought in the heart of this man, who, though but a moment before our mortal enemy, and going to be our executioner, was now solicitous, and industriously officious to preserve us! however harsh or morose he before appeared to us, we now deemed him a man of singular good-nature and humanity.

About noon that day we dressed the four pieces of beef before spoken of, which our people brought along with them, and thereof made an equal division, the people we were among not having the bowels to give us any thing to eat, or ought to comfort us, though they wallowed in plenty. Indeed, the next day they granted us liberty to depart, in order, as they said, to get a vessel bound for  
the

the Havanna, which wonderfully revived our drooping spirits; but we found afterwards, by sad experience, it was mere delusion all, for no such vessel could we find. They appointed two Indians to be our guides to a town called Condiliero, who led us over several high and craggy mountains, extremely difficult to ascend, that went very hard with wounded men.

This was the first setting out of a journey, as we computed, of two thousand three hundred miles, which we were to travel bare footed, through an unknown tract of land, (at least to us) which took us up ten months, and I may say sometimes proved insupportable; for we were all the while exposed to many dangers, and underwent as many hardships as was possible for human nature to sustain. I shall now proceed to give as faithful an account of every particular as may be, without augmentation.

In the first day's journey to Condiliero, as we were going through some large woods, we saw great numbers of baboons, which made an unusual noise, and had faces like old men, with beards of a sandy colour, but their posteriors were as red as a cherry. In the evening of the same day we came to a clear spot of ground, something like one of our fields: here our guide told us we must rest that night; but we were disappointed, the place being so infested with variety of vermin,

vermin, it was impossible to have a moment's sleep, or so much as sit down the whole night, though we had fire, in order to prevent annoyances.

Soon as the day broke we began to ascend a high mountain, from whence we saw a great gulph, called Gulph Dulce, in the North Sea. Here we met with an Indian man and boy, which they call Lookouts, their business being to spy the motions of other Indians, whom their own people are at war with. Shortly after, we met with another Indian man and boy returning very swiftly : these belonged to Henricus Johnson and Pedro Polias, who kept them to run on errands to the Spanish governors, with whom they held intelligence. They told us, they had been with a present to the governor of Comayagua, and were returning to their masters. This evening we came to Condiliero, where the inhabitants (being Indians) flocked about us, as in amazement, and brought us before their king, who was sitting on a carpet spread on the ground, in great state, after this manner. He was surrounded by his guards, holding spears in their hands, a great many. He demanded of us, with great civility and affable behaviour (in broken Spanish) from whence we came, and where we were going ; to the first I answered, but to the last part of the question said, I could not tell, but that we were in hopes to have

have found a ship here bound for the Havana ; upon which he gave us to understand, that there was no prospect of meeting any shipping here, nor could he support such a company as we, but that he would order a person in the morning to put us on our way to a town called St. Peter's Solio, and, for our present refreshment, commanded that two roasted plantains should be given to each of us, with skins to rest on that night, which we thankfully received.

These Indians only cover their private parts, the king himself having nothing on but a pair of drawers ; but when they go to rest they have a covering made of cotton, which they sometimes wrap themselves in, lying on a hide spread on the ground before a fire : they rise often in the night to smoke and eat ; for they are not able to rest long because of the vermin, which are intolerable, though they use all means possible to keep them off, by suffering nothing to grow near their houses, that are made of cane covered with leaves.

This town of Condiliero is pleasantly situated, being surrounded with fine cocoa-nut and plantain trees, that are beautiful to the eye ; the fruit of which are what the inhabitants chiefly live on. Plantains are always seen on level ground, growing in thickets, or rather groves, but are commonly called by the natives Plantain Walks ; their bodies  
are



are of a clear green, and smooth as glass, being very strait, and about twenty feet high. The fruit grows at the top, and is covered with great leaves, eight or ten feet long, and four feet broad, and are also very useful to the Indians. The trunk is about three feet in circumference, but so tender, that a man may cut it down with one stroke of a knife; and this is the way commonly made use of by the Indians when they want the fruit, they having no other way to come at it; and after a tree is cut down in this manner, another will arise from the same root, and in a twelve-month's time come to full perfection, bearing fruit as the former.

Early in the morning, according to the king's instruction, we set out from Condillero, with our guide, the others having left us as soon as we first entered that town. But, however, to make themselves some small amends for their trouble, they thought fit to strip Mr. Rounce of his bloody shirt at parting. The same evening we came to St. Peter's, a Spanish town, and were carried before the deputy-governor, who, after asking us some questions, said, "he should be obliged to commit us to prison till he could send to the governor of Comayagua, to know what he should do with us." The only favour we intreated of him was, that he would give us something to eat; upon which he said, he would suffer one of us to go about

about the town to collect charity for the rest. This office I was obliged to take upon me, because there was none of our company besides that could speak a word of Spanish. The first expedition I made this way, I got some plantains, and the head of a buffalo, with which I hastened to my fellow sufferers, whom I found in prison, lying on the ground among strange sorts of vermin, and making bitter complaints of their wounds. Thomas Whitehead died the next day.

It happened, that a negroe man coming to discourse with us here out of curiosity, was greatly moved with our sufferings, and acquainted us, that the governor of Comayagua, who was to determine our fate, was a cruel man to the English, and that he would certainly condemn us all to the mines, as he constantly served those of our nation who were so unhappy as to fall into his hands. This information terrified us to that degree, that Thomas Rounce, Banister, and myself, resolved, if possible, to make our escape out of prison, and try if we could get to some part of the South Seas. We were much troubled, however, to think of leaving our countrymen behind, but hoping the governor would not deal so hardly by them, who were all disabled men, and considering, that if he did, our being partakers with them would be of no manner of service to them, we put our project into execution unknown

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to them, and stole out of the town about ten o'clock at night; so far the law of self-preservation will prevail.

By direction of the negroe, we took a path which led us through mountains that were all on fire, that is, there was nothing growing on them but what was of one continual blaze, that made a dreadful roaring. We travelled thus eight leagues almost scorched to death, and seemingly as though we wandered through the fiery regions of hell. This fire was occasioned, as we supposed, with design to clear the road of vermin, and beasts of prey. The next day after this terrible journey, we came to a large savanna, or plain, where we saw great numbers of wild cattle. Towards evening we came to a run of water, near the side of an high mountain, of which we drank plentifully, but could find nothing to allay our hunger; here we took up our night's lodging, but having no conveniency to make a fire, we were in danger of being torn in pieces by the beasts, which made a continual roaring in our ears all the night. Mr Rounce continuing very bad of his wounds, said he could get no farther; however, the next day we made shift to reach an Indian range or whigwam, where we found two Indian women. On pleading our necessities they gave us three plantains, and some jerked beef, as they call it, that is, dried by the sun, they having

no salt to cure it. With this good woman we staid till night; and then came an Indian man, of whom we enquired the way to some town. He, by counting his fingers, and pointing to the moon, made us understand, it was two months journey to Wattemal, or Guatemala; but there was a town, he said, called Santa Cruz, which we might reach in five days.

So the next morning we set out for it; and after travelling most of the day through a wood, we came to a great savanna, full of small paths crossing each other every way: and not knowing which to take, we wandered till night, and then laid us down under a tree, trusting to God to be our protector.

In the morning we concluded to go northwards of this place, and saw great numbers of wild horses, cows, and buffaloes, which had occasioned so many paths. We were, at this time, in extreme want of water; so that we were forced to chew the grass for moisture, and began to grow very disconsolate, fearing we should never be able to get out of so intricate a place. But coming to a very high tree, it came into my head, that if I got up, I might perhaps see some house or whigwam; so up I got to the very top, but no such thing could I discern; however, as Providence had ordered it, I espied, at a great distance, something like a man on horseback, to which we made all the



the haste possible, and, to our great joy, found it to be a negroe on a mule: we presently acquainted him with our distress, and knowing us to be Englishmen, he professed great satisfaction in that he could be serviceable to us, for he was himself, he said, born in Jamaica, that being a thing those people reckon as much of as if they had been born in England. Accordingly he took us to his range, and, in a friendly manner, brought us milk and plantains sufficient, having cow-hides to sleep on that night, and being very acceptable to us at that time.

Now it happened, that this man's wife, an Indian woman, was very ill, and lame of both her legs, upon which account her husband was in great affliction, and asked, If either of us had any skill in surgery? We said Yes, and though we could not boast of much knowledge that way, yet we judged, that the taking away some blood might be of service to her; but then we were at a great loss for want of a lancet; but the man got us a sharp knife, with which Mr. Banister let her blood in both her legs, and it pleased God to crown this undertaking with such success, that the next day the woman could make some use of her legs. This so much rejoiced her husband, that he killed a cow for our better entertainment whilst we staid with him, and that we might have provision when we departed, the better to enable us to perform.

form some part of our journey. We staid here four days, helping him to build a new range. He told us, we had four or five hundred leagues to travel before we could come to any part of the South Seas, and that there were but few inhabitants by the way; he gave us likewise to understand, we should meet with many and great dangers, which he feared would prove unconquerable, and that it would be impossible for us to escape wild beasts, without having great fires every night where we rested, in order to which he gave us a steel, flint, and some matches made of wild cotton, with a horn to keep them dry in, and a piece of net for the conveniency of carriage. This present was of great service to us throughout our journey, and is part of what I have brought home with me to England.

Having thus afforded us the best help and instructions he was able, we took our leaves, but not without sending his brother to conduct us out of the savanna, which was, as they said, twenty leagues long, and ten broad, and as level as a bowling-green. In the evening we came to a grove of trees by the side of a pond, where was plenty of old wood lying on the ground, out of which we made a fire, and roasted our beef and plantains; but in the night came such swarms of frogs, toads, and snakes out of the pond, that we were forced to take brands out of the

the

the fire, and lay about us to keep them off. In the morning we took our way towards the mountains, and at noon we came to a run of water, where we saw several Indian women, with calabashes hanging in nets over their heads, to fetch water. We followed them at some distance up a hill, where were a great many whigwams; and as soon as they saw us both women and children fell to screaming and shouting like distracted creatures, and the noise soon brought the men about us, with their bows and arrows in their hands; but upon our telling them in Spanish that we were Englishmen, and strangers to the country, and that we only wanted their directions in our way over the mountains, they were pacified, and agreed we should stay with them that night. We endeavoured all we could to dispel the fears the women and children had conceived of us, occasioned only by the whiteness of our skins, and the difference between our features and their's, which to them was very terrifying, having never before (as they said) seen such strange people as we.

This place was very pleasant, and surrounded with fine trees; they told us it was two days journey from thence to the entrance of the mountains, whither we wanted to go; towards which in the morning we set out, and saw by the way great numbers of large monkies hanging by their tails on trees,

with flocks of birds as big as our swans, the cocks with combs shaped like coronets, and all over beautified with plumage of various colours. About sun-set we came to a thicket of fine tall trees bearing fruit as big as an apricot, and yellow as gold; we found abundance of it lying on the ground picked by birds, on which we ventured, and regaled ourselves very delightfully. This seeming a proper place to take up our night's lodging at, we made our fire accordingly, and rested pretty well that night; in the morning, the trees were covered over with those large birds, and little creatures, no bigger than a man's hand, with faces perfectly like human kind, which to us appeared very wonderful, nor could we ever learn of what species they were.

All this day we steered our course to the southward, as near as we could guess by the sun, till we came to some very high mountains, one of which we ascended; from whence we saw a small plain, and beyond that, mountains of such prodigious height, that we could not see their tops. We descended to the plain, when my fellow travellers asked me, if we were going right? I could only answer, We must trust to Providence, which had hitherto wonderfully protected us. Mr. Banister said, he was resolved to go back, for that the Indians had directed us into the mountains, only with intent that we should  
never



never come out of them, and that, if we proceeded, we must inevitably perish there. As we stood debating, I saw three little things running through the grass (being pretty high) as nimble as deer, but could not distinguish their species, yet we followed, and observed them to take into a whigwam, whither we made all the haste possible, and found them to be three Indian boys. In this whigwam sat an old man stone blind, on whom the boys had got fast hold, fearing we should do them some harm; and indeed, when we first entered, the poor children were struck with such fear and astonishment, that they trembled, and looked as if we were going to devour them alive. We asked the old man, If we had taken the right way to pass the mountains? He said, No; and that, if we had attempted to go farther, we should certainly have been torn in pieces. He desired us to sit down, saying, that when his family came home he should have something to refresh us with, which was what we very much wanted, and had almost despaired of. After a while came three men and three women, who brought with them a great quantity of honeycomb and plantains; they seemed strangely surprised at us, and asked the old man what we were? He answered, We were Spaniards; but, on my telling him we were Englishmen, he said, He had formerly heard of such men, but had never  
seen

seen any, and was sorry, that now so fair an opportunity offered, he could not gratify his curiosity that way. I desired to know how long he had been blind; upon which he called for a string of berries, bidding me count them; I did so, till I came to two hundred and four; then he said, so many moons had he been blind, that is, fifteen years, nine months. One of his sons being sick, Richard Banister let him blood at the father's request, which so much obliged the old man, that he did not send us away empty of such provisions as he had; and at our parting the next morning, he ordered a boy to bring us on our way, strictly charging him not to leave us till the sun was in the meridian, which the boy punctually obeyed; and then took his leave of us with one knee to the ground, and clapping his hands, as the Indian way of bidding farewell.

After this we made what haste we could towards the next mountains we were to pass over, and had not gone far before we saw two or three ranges, and therein several Indians, men and women, of whom we desired leave to stay there that night, to which they readily consented, bringing us a mat to lie on. One of them shewed me a lump of gold, asking, if I knew what it was? and saying, we must stay, and help them to get some more such, for that the rains were coming on, which wash it from the mountains.

tains. They have dams to stop the water, and cane utensils to sift the gold from the sand, and then running it into little lumps, therewith paying tribute to the king of Spain; and if any remains, it goes most commonly among the holy fathers, if they are Christians, leaving themselves but little to apply to their own uses. This proposal, though a golden one, was not acceptable to us; but our fellow traveller, Mr. Banister, began again to lament bitterly, saying, We were got among heathens, who would keep us starving in these mountains all the days of our lives; however, in the morning, we easily excused ourselves to them, saying, we were obliged to go forwards with all speed to Gracias de Dios, and so left them, without any attempt made by them to stop us.

About sun-set we came to a fine spring of water, by which we sat down to drink, and liked it so well, that I believe four quarts a-piece did not excuse us.

Mr. Rounce still continuing bad of his wounds, began to despair of being able to travel farther; I made a fire, in order to stay here this night, and dressed his wounds. He being much better in the morning, we set out again; but could not possibly travel far in one day, on account of the extreme heat, the sun being, as it were, perpendicular; and as we had no covering for our heads

or

or bodies, it almost flayed us alive. As we went along we saw abundance of large trees on fire, supposed to be done by the heat of the sun, and met with two Indians, riding on mules, of whom we enquired how far it was to Vera Paz, or the entrance of the mountains of Ococingo? They let us know by signs, that we might reach it by sun-set, and said they were come from a town called Apaablo, which was about ten leagues beyond the mountains.

At night we came to the Boke, or entrance of Vera Paz, and discovered a great light, occasioned by trees being set on fire by the Indians, to preserve themselves from wild beasts, that swarm on those mountains, and to serve for a light to them at least some part of that long dark way of Vera Paz that they are frequently obliged to pass.

Vera Paz is a passage between the mountains, about twenty feet broad, very rocky, and full of great stones; one served us to sit on all night, and at day-break we proceeded on our journey, but could hardly discern the day; for the mountains are so very high, and bend so towards one another at the top, that we could never see the skies, but were forced to carry brands of fire in our hands, that afforded but a very gloomy light in this place.

Such was the yelling and roaring of wild beasts out of this cavity; such the horror  
and



and gloom of the place we were in ; nay, and such even the sight of each other, by the uncertain light in our hands, that well might we say, as we often did, Now are we in the regions of darkness indeed ! Every thing that presented itself to us here was, in reality, very terrible ; nor was there a drop of water to be had, so that we were almost dying with thirst ; our feet also were so cut and gored that it was with extreme pain we underwent that uncouth walk, which lasted us twenty leagues. We were three days and three nights, which were all one here, before we got through, having had little or no respite in all that time.

On the morning of the fourth day we came out on a large plain, where were great numbers of fine deer, and in the middle stood a tree of unusual size, spreading it's branches over a vast compass of ground : curiosity led us up to it. We had perceived, at some distance off, the ground about it to be wet, at which we began to be somewhat surpris'd, well knowing no rain had fallen for near six months past, according to the certain course of the season in that latitude ; and that it was impossible to be occasioned by the fall of the dew on the tree, we were convinced, by the sun's having power to exhale all moisture of that nature some minutes after his rising : at last, to our great amazement and joy, we saw water dripping, or distilling, fast from the

the end of every leaf of this wonderful (nor had it been amiss if I had said miraculous) tree; at least it was so in respect to us, who had been labouring four days through extreme heat, without receiving the least moisture, and were now almost expiring for the want of it.

We could not help looking on this as liquor sent from heaven to comfort and support us under our great extremity. We caught all we could in our hands, and drank very plentifully, and liked it so well that we could hardly prevail upon ourselves to give over. A thing of this nature could not but excite us to make the strictest observations concerning it; and accordingly we stood under the tree near three hours, and found we could not fathom its body in five. We observed the soil grew to be very stony; and upon the nicest enquiry both of the natives of the country and Spanish inhabitants, they say there was no other such tree seen throughout New Spain, nor perhaps all America over; but I do not represent this as a prodigy in nature, because I am not philosopher enough to ascribe any natural cause for it; the learned may, perhaps, give substantial reasons in nature for what appeared to us a great and marvellous secret.

When we had walked about four miles from hence, it brought us to a great pond full of fowl, perfectly like our ducks, except  
that

that they had red heads, and whistled like blackbirds. Near sun-set we got into a fine valley, and hoped to have found some Indians, but being disappointed, and having no sort of provision, we were in great extremity. I desired my fellow-travellers to make a fire, to stay here all night; in the mean time I went to a thicket of trees near at hand, to try if I could find berries, or any thing else to eat, or a little water to drink; but, before I came to the trees, I heard a noise like the falling of water. I followed the sound, it leading me to a great river, but a vast depth beneath me; however, with much difficulty, I got to it, and found a calabash lying just at the brink of the water; I filled the calabash, and returned to my thirsty companions; who, in the mean time, had had the good fortune to find some pine-apples. By the help of this the night passed more comfortably than we expected.

The next morning we continued our journey towards some very high mountains, and falling into a small path, kept in it all the day, supposing it would bring us to some Indian town; but, instead of that, it led us to a run of water, and there it ended. This fruitless walk drove us almost to despair; however, we resolved to go up one of the mountains, and try if we could see any thing from thence. In our way up we heard the crowing of a cock, and looking about, espied

two Indian ranges in a valley, so vastly steep every way we could discern, that we judged it almost impossible to come at it; yet we resolved to use our utmost endeavours to get some way or other, and at last accomplished it by scrambling on our hands and knees. The Indians (for there were several here) who saw us perform this feat, were much surpris'd, and enquired what we were, and from whence we came? I told them Englishmen, and came from St. Peter's Solio, and were going to Wettemal, begging them to give us a little water, and leave to stay there all night. Immediately one of them brought a calabash full of milk, and tygers' skins to lie on; saying, that in the morning he would shew us the way to an Indian town. This man had a child bursten-bellied, whom I undertook to cure, and accordingly made a truss of cane, and such things as I could get fitting, and fixing it on the child, so as I hoped might prove effectual. This so pleased the father, that he killed a fowl, and dressed it for our supper, and, as a further mark of his gratitude, gave me a knife, that ever after proved of great service to us, and I have it still by me.

In the morning he put us in our way, as he had promised, and told us we might reach it before night; when we had got within a mile of it, we perceived several women coming with jars of water in nets, hanging on  
their



their heads. As soon as they saw us, though not till pretty near them, down fell the jars, and away ran the women with great celerity to the town. We supposed the men would soon be upon our backs, which happened accordingly; for at once out they came ready armed with their bows and arrows, two of them having white wands in their hands; they demanded, according to custom, whence we came, and where we were going? I replied, we came from Porto Cavallo. Then they brought us before their king, or governor, who was himself an Indian; he was sitting on a chair, and many others kneeling on the ground about him. He asked of what country we were? We told him Englishmen, taken by Pedro Polias, and Johnson, our countryman. We told him also in what manner they had served us, and found he had been acquainted with them at St. Peter's. He said, there was a town called Gracias a Dios, not above six days journey from thence, and that a couple of our countrymen lived there, which was very agreeable news to us. Then he appointed us to a range, saying, he would order that every inhabitant in the town should give us something, and punctually performed his promise. The manner of collecting the charity was by the sound of the pipe and tabor, the persons appointed for that purpose going from house to house, gathering some plantains for us.

The tabor was made of a piece of a hollow tree, covered with a skin, and the pipe of a reed; after staying here two nights and one day, we set out for Gracias a Dios.

In our first day's journey from hence we passed over very high rocks all of fine marble, curiously veined with various colours; at the bottom of these rocks was a path that led us to a great river. This was what the Indian governor had before told us of by the name of the river Grande, which, he said, we should have occasion to cross to and fro for many days. We got over it with some difficulty, on trees that lay across the river; and passed through a grove of bamboos and cane, and on one side of the grove, on a tall stalk, grew a beautiful flower, somewhat resembling the glory of the sun. About noon we came to a savanna, where we sat down, and rested ourselves, the sun being so extremely hot, that we could not travel above five leagues a day. In the evening we came to the side of the river again, where we found the tracks of men's feet, but could not discover the way they went. We agreed to cross it again in quest of them, and on our landing on the other side, as we thought, we found two paths, one leading up the river, and the other down. We chose that which led down; but, after a walk of about two or three miles, found ourselves upon a narrow slip of land, with the river running on  
both

both sides us very rapidly ; by which we perceived, that instead of crossing it, as we imagined, we were only got upon an island in the middle of it. Now the day being far spent, and this no proper place to stay in, nor dared we venture to gain the main land from hence, so that we were forced to go back, and try our fortune in the other path ; and after we had traversed about as far in that as in the first, we came to a broad clear plot of ground, surrounded by very tall and spreading trees ; and, in the middle, was a little place fenced in with cane, and covered with leaves. Upon examining it we found some Indian corn that had been erected as a granary or storehouse to preserve the corn from beasts ; and in this place we took up our night's lodging. Here being plenty of wood, we presently made up a great fire, and fell to roasting our corn, and got a couple of calabashes, that we took to the river, and filled full of water. We had no sooner done this, than several tygers were seen crossing the water towards us. We ran full speed to the fire, that we knew to be our only security, and reached it before they could come near us.

It is common for these creatures to take into still waters, though they so much dread the raging of the sea, that, if it beats violently against the shore, they will not come near upon any account. We had but a very

indifferent night of it here ; for we heard such prodigious howling and noises of wild beasts, that we expected to have been devoured before morning.

Soon as the day broke, we got off this island to the main, and went on by the side of a mountain, till we met with a range ; in which we found a Mulatto man, and some Indians, stripping tobacco, of whom we enquired the way to Gracias a Dios. The Mulatto brought us hides to sit on ; and after some discourse concerning our misfortunes, I told him our design was to go to some part of the South Sea, where we might meet with an English factory ; but, he said, we had undertaken a journey impossible for us to perform, for that the South Sea was so far off, and we should have so many difficulties to struggle with by the way, that we must of necessity perish in the attempt ; but nothing he could say was able to divert us from our resolution of proceeding on our journey. Before we took our leave they gave us three cakes made of Indian corn, which they call turtillias, and some tobacco.

After this we steered our course to a place called Daggo, and about sun-set came to the river Grande again, there being a couple of ranges near, having four Indian women and three children. We desired leave of them to stay there all night, but the sight of us so frightened them that they made no reply.

By



By and bye the husbands or relations of these women, who had been out that day to hunt and fish, returned home with what they had caught; they presently came up to us in a familiar manner, and shook us by the hands, asking, if we were Spaniards; but I told them we were Englishmen. Then they took us into a range, and brought us fish and venison, that had been dried in the sun, not forgetting skins for us to lie on. They said, here were some of our countrymen some time since, who were going to Gracias a Dios, but that they died before they reached the place. In the morning (for here we lodged that night) I begged them to give me something to help us on the road; they brought us a few plantains, excusing themselves as having nothing else in readiness to give.

As soon as we left them, we crossed the river, and passed through a large wood, seeing great flocks of parrots and mackoys, besides several sorts of other birds, that all together made a strange harmony. Here was plenty of fruit as yellow as gold, shaped like an egg, and as big as that of a hen, of these we ate freely, never scrupling those the birds pecked. From this wood we passed directly over a savanna, there being abundance of wild horses; and from thence over several high hills; at the bottom thereof ran the river Grande, which we were again forced

to

to cross. About evening we came to a whigwam, finding a couple of Indians therein; our manner was ever to enquire of them, as being strangers to the country, and this commonly proved sufficient to gain us a civil reception, for one night, at least, those poor people seldom or never failing to treat us with great humanity, and relieve us to the utmost of their capacity; though they have nothing themselves, but what they get with great difficulty and danger. This is a great shame and reproach to us, and should make us with horror reflect upon the cruel usage they formerly received from their Spanish conquerors, which they often commemorate; nor can it be forgot by the whole world.

These Indians took us into their whigwam; and being desirous to cheer our drooping spirits, took a deal of pains to make a pleasant and comfortable liquor, called Cheely, done after this manner; they take a certain quantity of Indian corn, which they roast or parch up before a fire, and then grind it to a fine powder between a couple of stones, and having hot water ready, they pour it on, and let it stand to infuse. This liquor, besides what they gave us to eat, made a comfortable repast; but, above all, a couple of birds they kept, being very tame, and suffered to fly abroad at their pleasure, entertained us; they were no bigger than a sparrow, but could talk intelligibly, and whistle

and

and sing admirably; the cock had a comb like our game cocks, and the hen a croppled crown, red wings, and yellow bodies, and a black circle round their necks. Those people said, we might get to Gracias a Dios in two or three days, and that Apaublo was between it and us.

In the morning we took our leave of them, and passed over a savanna, covered with a sort of grasshopper or fly, of a yellowish colour; the air also was so thick of them, that it was nigh darkened thereby, that we could hardly keep on our road, being almost stifled by the concourse of them; and thus we travelled till sun-set; at that time, being got to the side of the river, we consented to pass the night, and made our fire accordingly, in order to sit and rest ourselves: here was great plenty of lime and orange trees.

In the morning, as soon as the sun was risen, we waded through the river, but the stream ran so fast, that it carried us a long way before we could get ashore. We had no sooner overcome this difficulty, but another presented itself; we were obliged to climb up several high and steep mountains, which after our late fatigue in crossing the river was very grievous to us. On the tops of these mountains was fine level land, adorned here and there with beautiful groves. About noon a great river discovered itself to  
us,

us, very steep from us, and when we got to it, the stream was so very rapid, we could not contrive to cross it; and at last began to suspect we had missed our road, and were going back again; but happening to see a couple of Indians coming up to us, we sat ourselves upon the ground till they came, and then asked them which way we should get over? They said, we must go up the river; and told us, they were Indians of Honduras, and that they came from Guatimal. We went on as they directed, for some miles, without seeing any probability of crossing: but at length observed something at a distance that appeared like a great net, hanging across the river, between two mountains. We got into a path that led up to it; and, on the best observation that could be made at that distance, we could not determine if it was designed for a bridge, or a net to catch fowls or beasts in. It was made of cane, and fastened to four trees; two of which grew on the mountain on this side, and the other two on the mountain opposite to it, on the other side of the river. It hung down like a hammock; the lowest part of it, which was the middle, being about forty feet from the surface of the water, but still it could not certainly be judged if this was intended, in reality, as a bridge for travellers, being in doubt if it might be strong enough to bear a man's weight. We were,

therefore,



therefore, some time before we could prevail upon ourselves to venture on it; and when we did, it was but slowly, and very cautiously, for the bottom was made so open, that we had much ado to manage our feet so steadily as required. Every step we took gave great motion to it, which, with the swiftness of the stream underneath, occasioned such a dizziness in the head, that, I believe, we were a full hour in getting over; but, having accomplished it, we sat us down to view and admire this compleat piece of workmanship and ingenuity, for such it really was. We could not conceive how it could be possible to be conveyed from one mountain to the other, considering how forcibly the water ran in this place, which we knew would make it impracticable for men to swim over with one end of it; nor could it be done in canoes, or any other thing that we could suppose to be made use of by the Indians; for though they are certainly a people of great dexterity in their own way, yet it is well known they are utter strangers to all arts in use among the Europeans, and others, on such like occasions. We observed this bridge to be very old and decayed, and guessed it might have hung there some hundreds of years, and, if so, it must have been before the Spaniards entered the country; but, as the people here have no use of letters, we could never come to any certainty concerning

concerning its antiquity. This we learned, notwithstanding, by enquiry made of the natives, that it had hung in that manner time out of mind, and that it had been (but they could not tell when) a very publick road for passengers, though then quite disused. I must not forget to acquaint the reader, that the breadth of the river under the hammock bridge (as we called it) is full a quarter of a mile.

This evening we got to an old whigwan forsaken by the Indians, as is common amongst them, in which we took up our night's lodging, and in the morning set out again; but our provisions being all spent we were forced to employ part of our time that day in gathering such berries as could be found to appease our hunger. After travelling over a savanna, about sun-set we came to a run of clear water, by the sides whereof were fine plantain walks. While we sat here to rest us, came several Indian women to fetch water; but, like those we had met with before on the same errand, soon as they saw us, away they ran, screaming most terribly, and sent their husbands to see what we were. The men seemed to be in a great rage, supposing, perhaps, some injury might have been offered the women upon this. I thought proper to tell them we were Spaniards going to Guatimal, and desired them to let us stay with them that night.

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There were but a couple of them who understood Spanish, and though they did not seem greatly to like us, yet they agreed for us to stay, and therefore carried us to their town, called Papola a Palpa, appointing us a range, and brought us plantains, and wood that we might make a fire to roast them; but as they still doubted us, they kept a guard over us all night.

About day-break we got out of this town, and after we had walked about a mile crossed the great river, and went directly through a wood, finding plenty of locusts, and ate very heartily. Then we came to a large plain, and sat down to rest ourselves, the sun being so hot in these parts, and especially in this month of May, that we could hardly suffer our feet to touch the ground. As we travelled farther on this plain, we saw several patches of sugar-cane; by this we easily judged we were not far from Gracias a Dios; accordingly about four o'clock in the afternoon we walked into that town. No sooner had we entered it, but a woman beckoned to us from a house, to whom we made up with all speed. There was in the house with her a very old man, who asked us several questions, particularly, if we could speak Spanish, and what countrymen we were? I gave him our history as briefly as I could, and desired to be informed of the best course for us to get at some English factory. "At

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Panama,

Panama, says he, there is an English factory, and none nearer; but then it is four or five hundred leagues to it, and you will never be able to travel thither, because the rains are coming on, which will last six months without intermission. However, says he, I will put you in the best method I can, which is this: there is a place called Sonsonnata, about one hundred leagues from hence, from whence vessels frequently sail for Panama; to this place I would advise you to make what haste you can, and, in all likelihood, you will get a passage thither." This gave us a little encouragement. Then he told us of two of our countrymen, who lived about eight leagues off, and said, that one was named William, and the other Thomas. After this discourse he began to think of something to eat, and directly ordered some plantains to be roasted; and, in the mean time, brought us out honey, and a fine fruit called Sopotoas, that grew on very high trees, hanging like apples, but as big as melons, and as red as cherries; they have a very delicious taste, and large stones within them; I have brought some of them home.

The town of Gracias a Dios is surrounded with plantains, cocoa, and abundance of fruit trees. The houses here are made of cane, and covered with leaves. We staid here two days to rest ourselves, but were forced



forced to beg about the town before we came from thence, for something to help us on the road; but it not being in any one's power here to spare much, we only got some plantains, and on the third day set out in quest of our countrymen Thomas and William.

Soon after we left Gracias a Dios we passed over a run of water, and then ascended a very high mountain, and about noon came to a delightful place, like a fine park, abounding with stately deer. Here were the tallest and largest trees I ever saw, and their bodies so thick, that we could not fathom them in less than eight times.

At the end of this place, where we got about evening, stood an old range, but no one near it. Not far from hence was a new range; we made to it, in hopes of meeting somebody; but there came on such a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, that kept us there that night.

The next day some Indians met us, of whom we enquired the way to Alvado, and if they knew one William an Englishman that lived there? They said, they knew him very well, but it was three leagues to his whigwam. About evening we arrived at William's habitation, but to our great disappointment he was abroad. His wife, who was an Indian, told us, he was gone with Thomas his countryman, and would not return within twenty days. I understood

they had been brought into this country when little boys, but by what means I could not learn. However, it seems, they were not able to get out of it, nor do I believe ever any one did before us, that had the misfortune of being in our forlorn state. Mrs. William (for I know no other name to call her by) informed us, that "there was a countryman of our's not far off, that her husband, by some stratagem, had brought out of the mines." We desired her to send for him, which she accordingly did, and at night he came to us. We hoped to be well informed by him, how to steer our course in the best manner, but in this we were mistaken, for he said, he had been taken at Truxillo eight years before, and was carried directly to the mines, where he had spent most of that time, and was therefore so much a stranger to the country, that he could give us no manner of intelligence about it. We proposed to him to endeavour with us to get away; but he said he could not undertake to travel so long a journey after our manner. Perhaps the true motive of his refusal was, he had, like his friend, settled his affections on some woman of the country. We staid here two days, and had the best entertainment the poor woman could give us; she also procured us a bull's hide, that we cut, and tied to the soles of our feet, that were at this time in a very sore condition.

Our

Our countryman told us, there was an Indian town called Petapa, or St. John's, not above two days journey from this place, and the people there would direct us to Sonsonata.

From hence we set out, being in a manner no wiser than we were before, and steered our course south-west, and, as near as we could guess by the sun, for the South Seas. By sun-set we came to our old range, where we lay before we came to our countryman's, and there once more took up our night's lodging. In the morning we met a couple of Indians, that directed us to go through such a valley, where, they said, we should see a range, and might get some milk and plantains. We went as directed, and by the way gathered a fruit seemingly like a quince, very delicious to the taste, seeing great herds of fine cattle. At noon we came to the valley, and found the range fixed between four trees, according to custom, with cows tied to the trees. Here were two men and two women. I asked them how far it was to Petapa? They said, we might get thither in two days. As I perceived they had no knowledge of the English, I told them we were Spaniards; upon this they seemed not to like us; yet, when I desired them to give us something to eat, they did not think fit to refuse, but brought us a tomalaw, made of Indian corn, and skins to

lie on. We staid here all night, being very much tormented by muskitoes. These Indians lie in hammocks, made of a sort of rushes, that hang between two trees.

At sun-rise we set out for Petapa, or St. John's, and about noon came to a fine run of water, by which, the day being very hot, we sat down to rest. In the evening we got out of the valley, and came on a large plain, where were abundance of wolves. We immediately made a fire, having no other way to defend ourselves from them, but were forced to keep walking round it all night; for the place was so over-run with vermin that it was impossible to sit still a moment. But this was the least of our trouble: the wild beasts made such a hideous roaring, and also approached so near us, that we were in fear our fire, though a large one, would hardly protect us from them. In the night we heard a great noise of horses running full speed, that we supposed were as nimbly pursued by the wolves. At day-break the noise ceased; and, perceiving they had all retreated, we advanced. As we crossed the savanna we found some places covered with the bones of cattle, that, no doubt, had been destroyed by these ravenous creatures. After this we went over some high hills, that brought us on fine level land, there being also great numbers of cattle.

Before



Before sun-set we came to a run of water, from which was a path leading up a hill, on the top whereof stood the Indian town of Petapa, or St. John's. No sooner had we got up the hill but the people from the town flocked about us, and among the rest one holding a white wand in his hand, demanding who we were? I told him Englishmen; he said he knew of no such people, and that Spaniards were not so white: however, after they had satisfied their curiosity in viewing us, and asking some out-of-the-way questions, they took us to a range, and gave us some jerked beef and turtillias. The next day we departed for Chippea, two days journey from hence. Petapa, or St. John's, as I said, stands on a high hill, and commands a very beautiful prospect; it is surrounded by savannas, and has plenty of fine cattle.

Soon after our departure hence we came to the mountains of Valladolid, very difficult to ascend, being very steep and stony. It took up a whole day getting over one, and we had four or five more to pass. Being in a valley, and night coming on, we thought proper to stay there till morning; but could get no water, and very little wood to make a fire. We were so pestered with vermin we could not sit down all night.

In the morning we passed through a little wood, that brought us to the foot of another mountain, at the top of which we arrived  
about

about noon : we looked round from thence, to see if we could espy any whigwam ; but, not perceiving any, we rested ourselves, and slept two or three hours ; but when we waked we were extremely cold, though just before overpowered with heat. We went down the other side of the mountain, and came to a run of water, after crossing which we perceived a range, and, going up to it, found therein a couple of women, one a Mestie, and the other an Indian. I begged them to give us something to eat ; at first they seemed surpris'd, but at last brought us three plantains, desiring to know of what nation we were. The Mestie said, that a white man, something like us, whose name was Vallone, had lived with her a long while, but that he was now dead ; he was, I believe, a Frenchman.

At night came some Indian men, bringing a wild cow they had killed, and gave us some of the flesh, bidding us dress it after our own manner ; we did so, and found it of greater nourishment than any thing we had yet tasted in the country. These Indians are very expert at catching wild beasts, and upon such expeditions are commonly on horseback ; every one has a long slip of hide in his hand, one end being fastened about the body of his horse ; and when he has fixed on the beast he designs to take, he rides close by him very precipitately, and flings  
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the other end over his horns, or about his neck; after this is done, immediately comes another, and wraps his lash round the beast's legs, till, getting him down, they manage him as they please: after this manner they take the fiercest beast that is. Then we got some dried hide of them, and fixed it to our feet, which were again in as bad a condition as ever. They said it was several days journey to any town or village, and asked if we could walk from hence to our own country? I told them No, it was impossible, and that we must go to it by shipping; but they having no notion what that meant, I marked out the figure of a ship on the ground, and, as well as I could represent it, floating on the water; at which they seemed to be in great admiration. These people were very friendly, in giving us provision to sustain us while going over the mountains, which we must of necessity pass, though we should have been glad to have avoided them. Our stay here was one day and two nights, and we then agreed, with the blessing of God, to set forward once more.

We ever took the greatest care to steer our course by the sun, as the Indians directed, especially in passing these mountains, it being impracticable to go directly over some of them, we being forced frequently to wind about them; and if we saw any range or whigwam in the vallies in the evening, we  
never

never failed to make up to it for shelter that night.

We saw in the road great swarms of butterflies, their wings of various colours, very beautiful to the eye, and as broad as a man's hand. In six days we passed these mountains of Comyagua, or Valladolid, lying between Gracias a Dios and Salvador; then we came to the great village of Chippea, the inhabitants soon flocking about us; in particular, an old man, who said he had been very conversant with white people formerly, when he was in the South Sea; and told his companions, that they were good men, and loved the Indians very well, claiming thereby their esteem. He spoke good Spanish, and very civilly took us to his whigwam, and treated us with beef and plantains, as also plenty of the liquor called Cheely, reckoned a rarity among the Indians, and is drank only at extraordinary times. Being thus refreshed, our benefactor took us abroad to be spectators of the evening sports and entertainments, that were on account of a great cantico, or public festival, to be held at that time. The people were all got into a very jocund and pleasant humour, running about the town, laughing, shouting, singing, and playing on instruments of music, and at several games: but, above all, we admired their great dexterity in riding horses, and managing them incomparably, without bridle,



dle, faddle, whip, or spur, though just taken wild from the savannas. It is a great diversion here to tie a string about the legs of a cock, hanging him up between a couple of trees, so high, that a man may sit still on horseback, and just reach the cock's head, that hangs down; this done, comes a company of men riding full speed one after another under him, trying who can first twitch his head off, and he that performs it is accounted a great artist; soon as the head is down, the lookers-on (who, when I saw this exploit, were some hundreds) make great shouts and rejoicings, as if they had gained some notable atchievement: indeed, as the cock gets a blow by almost every one that rides under it, and is thereby in continual agitation, it is somewhat difficult to catch hold of him.

Every inhabitant of this place keeps a range, apart from his own, on purpose to lodge strangers in, either Indians or others; for of both they are equally afraid and suspicious, insomuch that they never suffer one of any country or nation soever to remain a night under the same roof as themselves. The old gentleman, who had made us his guests, to rest there that night, had conducted us; but, instead of reposing ourselves, we could only listen to the great hurly-burly and seeming confusion that reigned throughout the town, and continued till morning.

Some

Some ran about beating on a sort of drum, others blowing through a reed or pipe, sounding like a hautboy; in short, every one seemed entirely given up to revelling and merriment.

How this festival came to be celebrated with such extraordinary marks of joy and zeal I cannot say, though I imagine religion to be at the bottom of it: but we had but little time or opportunity any where to enquire into the customs and ceremonies in the worship of the several people we came among: this, however, I am sure of, that the Indians of Chippea are Christians, every one of them having a great crucifix of wood hanging about their neck, with beads and relics.

In the morning our old friend bade us farewell, but at the same time mightily discouraged us from pursuing our intended journey to the South Sea, saying, it was a long and tiresome way for a mule, but now that the rains were coming on, which might swell the rivers, and fill the vallies, the country would be utterly impassable for foot travellers; but finding us determined at all events to go forwards, and that nothing he could say made any impression on us, he said no more, but in the most friendly manner gave us the best advice and instructions he was able. He told us, that by such a time we should get to a town called St. Michael's, where

where was a Spanish governor, and that between here and there was an Indian village, called Cauwattick, where we might have relief. Then taking leave of our sincere friend, with a thousand acknowledgments of gratitude for kindness administered, we set out for St. Michael's.

After travelling through a wood we came on a large plain, where was a whigwam with a Malatta man and woman, and not far from them some Indians building a new range, with whom we staid two or three hours, not being able to travel in the heat of the day. These Indians told us, they got gold in abundance during the rains, and that it comes down from the mountains. Towards evening we came to another whigwam, where we found three women, of whom we begged a night's lodging, but they made no answer, which we took as a denial; however, we resolved not to leave the place till morning, and accordingly sat us down at a little distance from them to rest ourselves. The women, perceiving we had taken up our sitting for that night, condescended at last to bring us out a bull's hide to lie on, but would not suffer us to set one foot into their whigwam: perhaps, as they had no men to protect them, they might fear some indecent attempts; but they did us wrong; we were but in ill plight for amours, and especially in this country where we could have

no very extraordinary temptation; but, to speak the truth of these people, they are, as it were, free from most of the vices common to other nations.

The next morning we steered our course over a savanna, on which were great numbers of fine deer, and other creatures. We frequently met with fruit very tempting and beautiful to the eye, but durst not taste any the birds had not picked: some of these fruits are of so poisonous a nature that they immediately kill whatever eats of them. On this savanna we travelled three days, when we got to some high mountains, and there found a range with Indians, whom I asked if we had taken the right road to St. Michael's? They said yes, but there were two ways to it, one through a savanna, which was a journey of six days, and the other over those mountains, which might be performed in three days. These Indians had nothing to give us, but said we should soon get to the town of Cauwattick, which lay just on the other side of the mountains, and that there we should be relieved.

As our provisions were quite spent, we were obliged to take the shortest way to come at more, which was that over the mountains; but before we had got far up, we thought they would have broke our hearts: it was from the rising to the setting of the sun before we got to the top, and then could perceive



ceive no signs of the town, or any path leading to it, as we expected to have found; so we made our fire, and staid there all night.

The next day we met an Indian, in search of his cow that had broke loose in the night from a tree to which he had tied her. We enquired of him how far it might be to Cauwattick? He presently gave us directions, and, by pointing to the sun, thereby made us understand we might get thither by noon, and we accordingly did.

Being very hungry when we came into the town, the first thing we craved of the people was something to eat; on which they brought us a little beef and some plantains, but seemed much surpris'd at us. At night we met with some Indians whom we had seen before in our travels, they gave us some ripe bananas; asking me if I knew them again, and finding I did, were mightily pleas'd with our acquaintance. Here we lodged this night in a range, and the next morning set out for St. Michael's.

The road we took was down a steep hill into a valley, where, after we had fetch'd a pretty handsome walk, we met with a path which led us back again into Cauwattick; the people were amazed to see us so quick upon them again, and said merrily, We knew not how to find our way out of so great a town, and therefore they would send one with us that should put us in the right road.

After our second departure from this place we got on the edge of a mountain, below which, in a mere precipice, was a great savanna, and thereon we discovered a range, towards which we intended to make all possible haste; but it cost us a whole day to go down this one mountain, and after we had taken all that pains and labour to come at it, in hopes of meeting with somebody, we had the disappointment of finding no one there; the range was forsaken: however, we made it our inn for that night.

At day-break we set out, and crossed the savanna between the mountains, and on the left hand of us saw a boy riding along on a mule; I ran directly to him, and asked him some questions, but he made no answer that I could understand; but supposing I enquired the way to some place or other, he pointed towards a prodigious high mountain, shaped like a sugar-loaf. Not caring to follow his directions, and finding we should never understand each other, I made him a motion of farewell, and he rode on. In this savanna we could find no water, so that we were almost dying for want of liquids: we travelled about till almost night again, and could see no range, nor any wood to make a fire with. Thus we wandered to and fro, not knowing what to do, till, by the direction of Providence, we came at length to a run of water, which, after we  
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had drank plentifully, we crossed, and on the other side, amidst a great company of cattle, that took to their heels as soon as they saw us, we heard the barking of a dog; by this we knew there must be people not far off. Accordingly we made strict search after them, and presently found out their range, in which were two or three persons, of whom I desired leave to stay with them all night, but they made no answer. Soon after came a Malatta man and woman, with an Indian, riding on a mule, approaching us in a very obliging manner, and shook us by the hand. The Malatta asking if we were Christians, and what the painting meant on my arms? I told him, I thanked God we were Christians, and Englishmen, and that one of the marks on my arms represented our Saviour on the cross, which, with the others, were done by a Grecian, some years ago, when I was in the Holy Land: he immediately fell upon his knees, and kissed the cross, pulling out his beads and crucifix, saying, he had been baptised by a friar at St. Michael's, with his wife and all his family; he then bade his wife look on my arm, and she also fell down and kissed it, but more fervently, if possible, than her husband; as I knew this adoration was paid to him whose image it bore, it gave me no uneasiness. They made us welcome to the best entertainment they could afford, such

as milk, fruits, plantains, &c. they told us we were now not far from St. Michael's, where lived Grandee Spaniards; and that in a day or two there would be held a great bull-feast at that town, for which in the morning we sat out, after due acknowledgments for the favour we had received.

By the way we met with several Indians going to St. Michael's, who were all painted, and dressed up, every one in the skin of some wild creature or other; nothing but mirth and jollity appeared in their countenances; they never ceased singing and dancing all the way they went; some of them had a sort of cudgels in their hands, with porcupine quills sticking at the end. About noon we got to a range, where we met with people, who informed us we were a day's journey from the town; and when they knew we were Englishmen they asked if we had a pass, for otherwise they assured us the governor of St. Michael's would send us all to the mines; and, as we knew we had no pass to shew, this was a terrible hearing. We were, however, obliged to go forward, and meet our fate, be it as it would. Here we learned, that about sun-set we should get to a whigwam, and so departed.

As we drew near to the town my fellow travellers began to fall into the utmost despair, saying, that all our labour and travel had been in vain, since it was evident we were  
going



going to fall into the hands of those who would make slaves of us for life. I endeavoured to dissuade them from such dreadful apprehensions, by putting them in mind how often God Almighty had been graciously pleased to rescue us from the most imminent dangers, even in this country; and that, as we had experienced so many convincing proofs of his providence and protection over us, if we still sincerely relied on him, we might rest assured he never would forsake us in the time of our greatest trouble, but enable us to bear the burthen appointed for us, however grievous it might seem: wherefore, (said I,) let us not despair, but, imploring the Almighty's aid, go on with hope and chearfulness, not fearing what man can do unto us; for if God be with us, who can be against us?

In the evening we came to the range that we had been before told we should meet with, and desired leave to stay there till morning; the people brought us a matt to lie on, and gave us plantains for our supper, which, when we had made a fire, we roasted.

In the night happened so great a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, that I thought we should have been drowned as we lay on the ground; this obliged us to get up, and creep to a corner of the range, where we stood till morning.

The Indians of this part of the country, both men, women, and children, sleep in hammocks made of silk grass; and are exquisite artists at making a sort of earthen ware, finer than any china I ever saw, though I had some time before been among the Chinese themselves. They make large jars here, one of which will hold ten gallons, and not weigh one pound; these will endure the fire as well as any metal, nor are they easily broke by a fall or blow. This ware is commonly coloured of a fine vermillion red. Here is also abundance of cochineal, with which those who are under the Spaniards frequently pay their tribute, some being compelled to pay the king the value of six dollars, others three, a year; so that, what with the King of Spain and the clergy, the poor people have little or nothing left for themselves.

As soon as the sun was risen, we set out once more for St. Michael's, and still saw great companies of Indians flocking thither, on account of the bull-feast. Going by the side of a mountain we gathered some fine fruit, of a golden colour, about the bigness of small plumbs, of which we ate very freely. About noon we came into a large wood, where poor Mr. Rounce was suddenly taken so ill that he was not able to get any farther, but fell down on the ground, with all the symptoms of death in his countenance. We  
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staid by him two hours, during which it thundered and lightened, as if all nature had been going to be dissolved. At last Mr. Banister and I resolved, if possible, to get to the town before night, and procure some help for our sick companion, thinking it would be hard to suffer him to lie and perish so near a town, without endeavouring for assistance; we therefore left him, and posted forwards with the utmost expedition; but we had not gone far before it began to rain with such violence as soon forced us to climb up a tree to escape drowning. The water presently rose in some places, that we saw, four feet and a half; we were, at that time, in great perplexity to think what would become of our fellow-traveller, who we knew was lying on the ground in a very helpless condition. At length, when the rain abated, we got down, and went on with all speed, and about two hours before sun-set came almost to the entrance of the town.

Being so near the place, where we expected the assistance we wanted, our hearts failed us, and we began to think we had been guilty of the greatest piece of weakness imaginable, in having fed ourselves up with the hopes of what there seemed not to be the least shadow of reason to expect; for upon what account (said we one to another) have we made all this speed hither? To whom are we to apply for relief now we are at our journey's

journey's end? Or what friends have we here to tell our story to? Indeed, all this we might have thought of without having been at the expence of a tiresome and fatiguing journey. But such was our care and concern for our friend and fellow-sufferer, when we saw him in distress, and knew his case required immediate help, that we were suddenly prompted to seek relief for him some where or other, not considering at that time of whom it was to be had. Had these objections occurred before our setting out, we had certainly never left him till we had seen him mend or die, and had we not left him (so wisely had Providence ordered it) he had not been forthcoming at this day; for as we sat contemplating on these things, and had just determined to return from whence we came, there happened to pass by us certain Indians, who had seen us before; they knowing us again, after a little discourse, enquired where our comrade was; we told them, we had left him sick in the woods about two leagues off; they said, if he had escaped the storm, he would be torn in pieces by tygers before morning, and readily offered to go and look for him, and bring him to us: this much rejoiced us, as we knew them to be swift and faithful.

No sooner were they gone than we entered the town, and presently a man beckoned to us. It was not our business to neglect any  
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one that would take notice of us, and therefore we went directly to him. He asked if we could speak Castiliana, and what distress had brought us hither? Upon which I repeated our whole story, and told him we were endeavouring to get to some English factory; but he gave us to understand there was none nearer than Panama, that we were still four hundred leagues from it, and that the inhabitants were so thin by the way that we must starve before we came at it; and positively affirmed, that, unless we could obtain a pass from the governor of St. Michael's, it would be impossible for us to get out of this part of the country; for that no Indian durst assist any man without one. He therefore advised us to make the best of our way to Wattemall, and settle there; but no discouragements could alter our resolution of endeavouring to get to our native country, which he perceiving, gave us a real of plate, which was the first money we had seen in the country, and bade us farewell. This person told us he was born at Lisbon in Portugal, and that he had lived here many years, and came hither by the way of Cape Horn in the South Sea.

Mr. Banister and I thought it our wisest course to present ourselves immediately to the governor, humbly to intreat his favour and protection, lest, being strangers in the country, we should be misrepresented to his  
Excellency,

Excellency, and more particularly as being Englishmen. Being thus resolved, we marched on till we came into the middle of the town, where the great church stands, and where also is a large plot of ground fenced in with bamboes; but I must warn the reader not to suppose this to be the church-yard, there being no such thing in this country, for they always bury the dead here within the churches. Here was a great concourse of people, the place being railed in, and scaffolded on all sides. On one seat, more lofty and magnificent than the rest, sat the governor in great state, with two Franciscan friars in their habits on each side of him. The other places were filled with people of all conditions; and on the ground were variety of the different sorts of Indians, that flocked hither from all parts of the country; for at this time was held the famous bull-feast, which we had heard so much talk of. It was kept after the manner of those in Spain, at some of which I have been present in that country. The bulls were just going to be combated before the governor and this great assembly; and great diversion it was to see the Indians dressed up in the skins of several wild creatures, and every one imitating the voice and actions of the respective beast he represented to the greatest perfection. When all was ready a wild bull was turned out, which those people attacked with their usual dexterity.

dexterity, sticking him full of arrows and darts, which made him start and fling about like raving mad; at last rode up an Indian on horseback, with spear in hand, and struck him between the horns, upon which he instantly dropt down dead. Then the hero alighting from his horse cut off the cod of the bull, and, sticking it on his spear, mounted again, and rode up to present it to the governor, attended with great numbers of Indians, shouting and dancing before him, by way of triumph for the victory. After this was brought out another bull, at which one on horseback came riding full speed, and thrust his spear into his side, by which means he laid him on his back; then he alighted also, and cut off his cod and ears; after which the bull got up, and ran at every thing he saw with the utmost fury; but so far were the combatants from avoiding him, that several, who had stuffed up the skins of horses, with their heads and tails, and just left room to slip themselves into the waist, made up to the incensed beast, like so many centaurs, in a full body, and bated him a long time; but afterwards one, who was free from this incumbrance, leaped on his back, and rode him for half an hour together, keeping his seat so firmly that the bull could not once throw him, though he endeavoured at it with all his might. This was done with the applause of all the beholders; but

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whether these champions exposed their persons in these feats after the example of the Spanish grandees and cavaliers, for the sake and honour of their ladies, or whether the ladies would vouchsafe them one smile or favour the sooner for so doing, I cannot tell; but for our parts, as we did not come into this country a knight-erranting, nor voluntarily to seek adventures, we were content to be humble admirers only of their heroick exploits, and now, as well as at other times, to go in quest of victuals and a resting-place. On this purpose, therefore, we went to a gentleman's house, who is called Master del Campo, and begged his charity. The first question he asked me, was concerning our country and religion; I told him we were Englishmen, brought up in the church of England; then, said he, you are no Christians, and so, giving us two reals of plate, bade us be gone.

Presently after this we met the Indians, who had brought our fellow-traveller with them from the wood where we had left him. He was very ill of an ague and fever, and said he escaped drowning by rallying spirits enough (seeing the danger he was in) to scramble up a hill, where he sat till the storm was over; but that the waters rolled down from other hills that were above him with such rapidity that it was with great pain he saved himself from being washed down into the  
the



the vallies, where nothing could have prevented his being drowned. I told him we were grown very rich now, for that we were masters of three reals.

Not long after we met with Mr. Rounce there came a negroe to us, and said we must go with him to his master, which we willingly consenting to he carried us to a house, where sat a holy father, and another gentleman, who had sent for us on purpose to enquire into our story; which when I had related they desired to know of what trades or occupations we were? I answered, we had spent most of our time as mariners, and pretended to little else than the knowledge of maritime business. Then the good father asked, if either of us was a carpenter, or a caulker, for that he had a negroe who was building a vessel, which we might caulk, and he would pay us what we desired for our labour. Though we were no such by profession, yet we readily accepted the offer, well knowing we could perform the work; upon which he gave us every one a real of plate, saying, we should be lodged in his house, and that he would provide us with victuals.

He then ordered a negroe woman to shew us to an apartment, where was a fire; as we sat there, roasting some plantains, with great satisfaction at this unexpected providence, and were grown pretty sleepy, there rushed

in upon us a man with a spear in his hand, who was soon followed by several others. He accosted us in very blustering and stormy terms, commanding us to go with him directly before the governor. As we found he came by authority, there was no disputing it with him, for go we must; but, however, instead of being carried to the governor, we were all three taken to prison, being told it was too unseasonable a time of night to disturb his Excellency about us, but that in the morning we should go before him. In the mean time we were thrust into a filthy hole, amongst all manner of vermin, and guarded by a company of Indians and Mulattoes.

Being shut up in this dark and loathsome place, we could not help lamenting our hard fate, that now we were amongst Christians, and, as we thought, going to be used in an hospitable manner, we should, instead thereof, find such cruel treatment, as indeed it proved; for in the night a scorpion stung me on the right thigh, so that in half an hour's time I was all over in agonies, with my teeth loosened in my head, and my tongue hanging out of my mouth: in which condition I lay groaning, till an Indian, who heard me, came to enquire what was the matter; who, seeing me in such a way, presently guessed at what had been the cause of it, and said that, if any poisonous thing had bit  
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me, we must search till we could find it, or I should be dead by morning; whereupon he immediately fetched a light, and finding the scorpion, killed it, and rubbed the place where I was stung with it for a long while, by which means I was much amended before morning.

The next day came a great many strange Indians to stare at us, and see what sort of men we were; but our keepers would not suffer any of them to talk with us, or give us the least thing to eat. About noon the same day there came to us a gentleman of the clergy, who, when he knew our country and religion, was also pleased to say we were no Christians. This gentleman informed us, that the governor had an Englishman belonging to him, to whom he had stood godfather at his late baptism, and that his Excellency had sent for him to be interpreter between himself and us. He called this man Thomas Colorado, which name, as we afterwards understood, was given him on account of his red hair.

On the third day of our confinement we were sent for to the governor's house to be examined, where we found our countryman Thomas. After due respects paid to his Excellency, and we had obtained his leave for so doing, I related our whole story to him in brief; but, however, took care not to omit the most material circumstances;

and then added, that our wives and children were not only in great sorrow for the loss of us, but must be reduced to extreme poverty by this our misfortune, and long hindrance from returning home to their relief (all which was really the case); and concluded with earnestly intreating he would be pleased to grant us a pass, whereby we might be enabled to get to an English factory. Upon this the governor ordered we should be told, he had strict commands from the king, his master, not to suffer an Englishman to pass through this part of the country; that it was not impossible but our story might be feigned; and that we might be sent hither as spies: but however, we were given to understand, that if we would become new Christians, and be baptized, that, and nothing else, would save us from going to the mines. To which I replied, with some warmth, that, as we were subjects of England, we could not, without violation of the known laws of nations, be detained here as prisoners or captives, at a time of settled peace and good understanding, as I supposed it was, between the two crowns; that our king hindered no Spaniard from coming and going when and where he thought fit in any part of his dominions; and that, as for our being sent to the mines, we were not brought hither as criminals to have sentence passed upon us, but came only as strangers and travellers, though  
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poor ones, and might the rather claim his pity; but for being baptized afresh, we could not, I said, tell what that meant; for we had already been baptized in the holy Catholic and Apostolic church, in the faith and communion of which, by God's grace, we hoped to continue to the end of our lives, let what would befall us; and that we always understood it to be against the ancient opinion and constant practice of the church to admit of re-baptism; that, as to what concerned ceremony only, we were resolved to continue in the way we had been taught. Upon the close of my discourse the governor advised us to consider better of the matter for our own sakes, and give a determinate answer to our countryman, whom we might talk with apart.

After we were dismissed by his Excellency, I desired Mr. Colorado to inform us how he came into this part of the world? who gave us the following account of himself: that he had been an associate with Spriggs and Lowe, two English pirates, who had been famous many years about America, as well as several other parts; and that being chased by a Spanish man of war, Spriggs, Lowe, himself, and some others got on shore at Truxillo, where the Indian look-outs killed Lowe, with two or three more, on the spot, but that he and Spriggs got off, and came to this town; that though he had been a pirate, and  
guilty

guilty of murders, robberies, and many other heinous offences, he was now become even as a new-born babe; for that he had been baptized by an holy father; adding, that, if we did but know as much as he, we should gladly embrace the kind offer the governor had made us, who, if we incurred his displeasure, by obstinately rejecting his beneficence, might have us prosecuted as spies, the consequence of which would be, if we were convicted as such, no less than death itself; and, continued he, it is reported by the Indians, who are come hither from several parts, that you have taken observation of the country, and enquired of the names of towns and places as you have passed along. To which I answered, that had we been employed as spies, we should have been supported in another manner than what he saw; and surely, said I, no man breathing would have been prompted by curiosity only, to so painful and hazardous an undertaking: wherefore there is nothing more plain, than that we are poor unhappy wretches, struggling for the freedom of once more breathing our native air. Had we not made such enquiries by the way, said I, it would have been impossible for us to have got thus far on our intended journey; upon the whole, I desired him to acquaint the governor, that we were firmly resolved to stand and fall by our own religion.

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The governor's lady, who was a Mestie, and had heard of our misfortunes, sent for me to talk with her, desiring to know our case, and whether we had wives and children? When I told her we really had, she took great compassion on us, promising to use her interest with her husband to grant us a pass, and to procure for us what other assistance she could, and ordered victuals to be given us in a very courteous manner; after which we were remanded back to our prison, where we found it was whispered, that we should be put to death; but, however, in two days after, Providence ordered it so, that this good lady obtained the pass she had promised me she would endeavour for; upon which we were released from our confinement, and went to return the governor and his lady thanks on our knees, who each of them gave us a real apiece with three hats made of cane platted by the Indians, and wished us well, and safely to return home to our own country. These hats were of great service to us afterwards, in shading us from the vehemence of the sun, to which we had been so much exposed before, that Mr. Banister had thereby almost lost his sight. Mr. Rounce continued all this while very bad of his ague and fever.

We were directed by our pass to go to a place called Contyagua, where we were to shew it to the Indians of that place, that we  
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might cross the great gulph of Fonseca, or Amapala, which is about thirty or forty leagues from hence. Thomas Colorado, for I know him by no other name, gave us an invitation to call at his house, about eight leagues from St. Michael's, saying, it was in our way to the place whither we were going, and that his wife, who was an Indian, would give us a kind reception, as being his countrymen; we accepted the offer, and sat out accordingly, leaving him at St. Michael's.

When we had got two or three leagues from the town, we came to some high mountains, which made us suppose we had mistaken our way, as we had no information that we should meet with any such thereabouts; but, about sun-set, we found out a path which led us to a range, where were people, of whom we enquired if they knew one Thomas Colorado, and where his house stood? They said, they knew such a one very well, and that he lived about four leagues off; we staid with them all night, and in the morning they directed us to his house. As we went along we met a rake, so called in this country, which is a company of mules, employed to carry goods to and fro, as our pack-horses are in England. This rake consisted of about forty mules, and was going to some indigo works, to get lading, as the drivers told us. Mr. Rounce being very ill this day, and not able to walk, we left him



him, about noon, near an old range, and went forward to seek for help. Before sunset we came to a great run of water, on the other side which was a large house with fine indigo works, which we supposing to belong to our countryman Thomas, we waded over to them directly; but were agreeably surpris'd to find the good father, who had engaged us at St. Michael's about the caulking of his vessel, to be the master both of the house and works. He happening to be here himself at this time, made very much of us, kindly enquiring how we got out of our late straits, and what was become of our companion. We told him we had left him sick at a range, and how far it was off; upon which he presently called some Indians, and gave them orders to go and bring him hither along with them.

After they were gone, I got a mule, and went with another Indian in search of him myself, lest those who were gone before should mistake the place; but he was not where I left him, nor could he be found by any of us, which made me conclude, that, by endeavouring to follow us, he had strayed out of his way, and so would never be heard of any more; and therefore, having given him quite over for lost, we returned to the old gentleman, who the next morning ordered the same Indians to go and search about for him till they could find him. He then

then gave us a razor, and bade us shave ourselves, which was what we had never had an opportunity of doing before since we had left our ship, and at the same time acquainted us there was an Englishman lived hard by, who was a doctor of physick (as he was pleased to stile him), and whom, he said, he would send for to us, which he accordingly did, and about noon the gentleman came, and expressed great satisfaction at this our interview, but said he was sorry to see us in so indigent a condition, and himself not able to assist us. He informed us, that he had been eighteen years in this country; that he had lived eight years of that time in this place; that we were the first persons he had seen from England in all that time; that his name was Henry Grace; that he was born at Speak, Speek, or Speke Hall, near Liverpool, in Lancashire, where his father and son now were, if living, and enjoyed a handsome estate; and sorrowfully said he should never see them or the place again, being not able to undergo the fatigue of such a journey; but that he would send a letter to his father by me, which, if I should be so happy as to get to England, he begged me to have delivered; which letter, since my return home, I had an opportunity of delivering into the old gentleman's own hands, to his great surprise and joy. This evening the men who were sent in quest of  
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our sick comrade brought him to us : he had been taken up by some Indians, and carried to the house of Thomas Colorado, where he staid till they found him out.

Mr. Grace was desired to ask, if we were willing to go and caulk the vessel belonging to the worthy gentleman, whose house we were at ? We answered, we were willing to do that, or any thing for him that lay in our power ; so the next day he gave us some covering for our bodies, which was the first we had in the country, and ordered mules to be got ready to carry us to the vessel, which lay at the side of a great river, called the river Limpo ; that is to say, the clean river, that disembogues itself into the South Sea. Being come thither, we found the negroe and some Indians at work on her, and thought she somewhat resembled Noah's ark. All the tools they had were an axe, a chissel, and an augur, wherefore we fell to work in the first place and made ourselves tools of wood proper for the business. Our oakum was the outsidess of cocoa-nuts. We were sixteen days caulking this vessel, which would carry twenty-two mules cross the river ; and there happened such a storm of rain that the water rose above twenty feet in one night, and floated our vessel off the stocks.

When we had finished our work we returned to our master's house ; but strangely were we surpris'd at our entrance, to find

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there two of our ship's company whom we had left behind with the rest at St. Peter's Solio, when we made our escape from thence, little expecting ever to see any of them more. These were our carpenter John Holland, who was so grievously wounded in the engagement, that we had given him over long since as a dead man, and John Balman, who were most pitiful objects of compassion, being almost starved to death. They told us, that after we were gone they were very cruelly used, and had scarce any thing allowed them to subsist on, but expected every day to be sent to the mines; which was the reason that, as soon as they were able to crawl, they with two others, namely, Thomas Locker and Thomas Robinson, stole out of the town by night, and that by means of the Indians and negroes, who handed them from one to another, and all the way directed them after us till they had got thus far, but that they had avoided coming hither by the way of St. Michael's, for fear of being sent to the mines. They said they had suffered very much on account of not understanding what was spoken to them, or being understood, and that the other two that set out with them, not being able to travel far, they had left them by the way with some Indians, who would take care of them. We desired to know if there was no enquiry made after us when we left St. Peter's? They said there



there were Indians sent to search for us; but, at their return, they reported they could hear nothing concerning us. This we knew could proceed only from the good-nature of the people, for nothing would have been easier for them, had they been so minded, than to have overtaken us.

We and our friends, being now well refreshed, and having all got trowsers on, began to think ourselves in no contemptible circumstances, and that it was high time to take leave of our kind benefactor, who would gladly have detained us; but as he knew our resolution of going to the English factory, he used no unreasonable importunity, and at parting gave us eight pieces of eight as a requital for our services done him.

Being now rich, and able, as we thought, to assist our poor shipmates, we resolved to share their fortunes; but then the grievance was, our pass could serve only for us three, to whom it was given; and how to procure them another we could not tell. At last we agreed to go back again to St. Michael's, and try our interest with Thomas Colorado on that head. Accordingly, we made all possible haste thither; but when we came near the town, in the morning, after a two days journey, we began to fear that the governor might recede from his favours, and, instead of complying with our request, secure us all. Upon this consideration, we

proposed to them to go to the governor by themselves, if they could get admittance, and plead their own cause, whilst we crossed the river of St. Michael's, and waited their coming in a wood about three leagues off, which we had been informed lay in our way to Contyagua. They, seeing we could do no otherwise, accepted the proposal. Hereupon we departed to the place appointed, and they entered the town to negotiate their affair, and succeeded therein so speedily, by Colorado's means, that by evening they returned to us in the wood, having their pass in their hands, not being so much as suspected for spies. We congratulated them on their good success, and imputed it in some measure to this, that the governor having beheld them in the same forlorn condition he had seen us, and found them in the same story, might probably say to himself, as Joseph did to his brethren, that now he knew we were true men, and no spies. We now resolved to stick close by one another for the future, seeing we were enabled so to do.

From this wood we travelled to a savanna, where we saw a great many tame cows going up to a large range to be milked. We followed them, and obtained leave of the people there to stay all night, and had milk and plantains given us in plenty. These people told us we might get to Contyagua in three days, but that there were no inhabitants by  
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the way. Upon this notice we purchased some jerk beef and plantains of them, to take with us, and in the morning left them, and passed over several high and craggy rocks, that proved very bad for our feet.

About noon we came to a fine spring, near which grew some tall trees, under the shade whereof we made a fire, and dressed part of our beef and plantains, not knowing when we might have such another opportunity. By evening we got to some indigo works, near which, considering the poverty of the country, stood a fine house. Here we expected to have met Grandee Spaniards, but found only one Indian, who told us the house was not habitable, because of the vermin that infested it: nevertheless, we blessed the Almighty for providentially directing us to this place to shelter ourselves from the inclemency of the weather; for at our coming here it rained prodigiously, and we plainly perceived a tempestuous night was coming on, as it indeed proved; but, to guard as much as we could against the vermin, we made a great fire, notwithstanding which the muskitoes so intolerably plagued us that we thought it impossible to undergo a greater punishment. As soon as day appeared we departed from hence, and steered our course up a mountain, from whence on the left hand we discovered the great gulph of Fonséca, or Amapala, that we were to cross:

having got down this mountain we found a path that led us up another, on the top thereof stood the town of Contyagua, that is nothing more than a number of whigwams placed thick together.

We found in it many women and children, but not the face of a man could be seen, for it seems they were all gone a hunting. As the women were commonly pretty shy of us, we thought it best to ask but few questions till the men returned. Accordingly we staid till evening, and the first we met was one bearing a white wand; this we supposed to be the Alcald, or Indian Governor, and understanding from himself that he was such, we delivered him our passes; but perceiving that he could not read them, I offered my service, and read them to him. When he understood the purport of them, he told me, the first canoe that went should transport us over the gulph, and then shewed us to a range, where he said we should be entertained till that time; for our passes ran, that we should have all things free till we had passed the gulph, though all persons, as well Spaniards as natives, must have passes, and pay ten pieces of eight each for their passage, besides the expence of their diet by the way; so greatly had the governor of St. Michael's favoured us. Indeed our entertainment proved but small; victuals being so very scarce in these mountains, that, during



ing the six days of our stay here, we tasted nothing but plantains. On the seventh, two canoes being ready to depart, we embarked therein, two of us in one canoe, and three in the other. We had eight Indians to row in each canoe, in case the weather should not admit of sailing.

In this gulph of Fonseca, Mapala, or Amapala, are many islands, some five, some six, or seven miles long, affording abundance of cocoa-nuts and plantains; to get which, on the second day of our embarkation, we landed on one of them, whilst the Indians went to dive for pearl. When they returned, we made a feast of our plantains, and their pearl-oysters that have a fine taste, and eat better than any oysters I ever met with. We took care, while we were on the island, to roast a good store of plantains, and besides, provided ourselves with a sufficient quantity of fresh water, to last us the voyage, we having yet forty leagues farther to sail. These islands are so infested with wild beasts that no one ever stays on them after sun-set. In this passage abundance of rain fell, and terrible squalls of wind, so that very often the canoes could hardly be kept above water. The Indians had each of them a hide to keep off rain, but we were forced to stand all weathers. After passing many islands, on the fourth day Banister and I, being in one canoe, and had outfail'd the rest,

rest, got to the other side of the gulph, and went directly up a lagoon full of mangroves that rendered the passage difficult. When we were got about twenty miles up it, we found a range standing close by the water-side; there we landed, not a little rejoiced at setting our feet once again on shore, for the weather had proved very rigorous, and we wholly exposed to it. This range was not inhabited, by reason of the vermin with which it was over-run. The Indians made use of it only as a shelter at their first landing, and to stow their goods in, whilst the mules can be got ready to take them away.

Mr. Banister and I, not being able to stay here till our companions should arrive, desired the Indians to direct us to some inhabitants, where we designed to stay and wait their coming. They directed us to a town, to which we got about sun-set, and therein took up our night's lodging; but at this place there was no sort of provision to be had at any rate, though we could now have purchased some, had it been in the way. There was not a man to be seen in the town, and the poor women there looked like pictures of famine; and well they might, for they had nothing but some green suppotoes, that they boiled to subsist on, things scarcely eatable for any creature. This dearth obliged us to lay aside the thoughts of staying for our company, and go forward.

About

About noon the next day we came to the old town of Pueblo Vaco, where were a church and many houses, but few people could be seen. At last we spied a lady, in one house, very well dressed, to whom we went, and begged her charity. She presently made chocolate, giving us plentifully of it, which was more acceptable to us at that time than gold. Whilst I was relating part of our history to this lady, who was a Mestie, in came her husband, who was of the same mixture of people as herself, that is, between Spanish, Indian, and Malatta, which mongrel breed is held almost in the same esteem here as real Spaniards. When this gentleman had heard something of our story, and understood we were endeavouring to get to the South Sea, he informed us, that there was a town called Realejo, or Riolego, about two days journey from hence, where vessels sometimes arrived from Panama, and that there we should have a good chance to get a conveyance to that place. Then I told him we desired to stay only till our fellow-travellers, whom we had left in a canoe on the gulph of Fonseca, could overtake us: but finding no encouragement to stay here, we set forward for Realejo.

At sun-set we came to an Indian village, utterly forsaken by every creature, which made us conclude not to lodge in it, but go on. We had not gone above two miles before

fore we met some Indians, who were going towards the village with plantains, of whom we enquired the way to Realejo; but they answered, that there was no travelling by night, and therefore persuaded us to turn back with them to the village, which we agreed to. As we were going along they told us there had been a distemper raging in these parts, which had swept away most of the men, and that the women and children that were left, not being able to hunt about in the woods and mountains as the men daily do, were almost starved to death. We imagine the reason of our not being sooner told the cause of the great scarcity of victuals in these parts proceeded from the fears the people might form to themselves of our taking advantages of their present weakness, which were perhaps heightened by hearing we expected company to join us; but if they dreaded so they were exceedingly unjust to us; we were not so profligate and ungrateful as to offer injury, had it been in our power, to a harmless people, who in our greatest distress had all along succoured and relieved us, though at the same time they were possessed with notions, that, should they ever fall into the hands of the English, we should repay their generosity with the utmost rigour and cruelty. These notions, which we could hardly ever dissuade them from entertaining, they must have learned from run-away negroes,



groes, who sometimes make their escape hither from some of our West-India islands; or more probably and generally from the Spaniards, who are industrious in creating an aversion in these people against those of our nation. But to return to my narrative: we gave these poor Indians two reals for two plantains and the leg of a fowl, and the next day got to Realejo, where, according to custom, we went about the town looking for something to eat, but could meet with no such thing. We saw only a few women, one of them a negroe, whom I asked if she could put us in a way to satisfy our hunger; she said there was Indian corn, but it was very dear, and but little to be had for a real; but that, if we could purchase any, she would make us some turtillias, and we might be lodged in her house. We embraced the offer, and gave her money to dispose of as she thought best. In the two days that we staid here came our three fellow-travellers, whom we left behind, with grievous complaints of having been starved, and that they had eaten nothing for four days past. We presently comforted them by calling for our turtillias, of which they ate very eagerly. At this place we saw two ships on the stocks, which were not yet planked, nor their decks laid; but the Indians were busy in hewing out planks from trees, which were bent by nature, and seemed ready fitted to the vessel,  
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in the same manner as we bend our sawed planks by fire. These ships were built of cedar, and would carry about three hundred tons. Their floor timbers and top were all of one piece. They were bound for Acapulco and Peru; but no vessel could we find here to answer our expectation. I talked with a Spaniard, who told me of a place called Nicoya, the most likely of any that he knew of to meet with a bark for Panama, for that vessels often came from thence to Nicoya to take in tallow and jerk beef. Then he directed us to go to a holy father who lived in this town, and crave his assistance; we went accordingly, and made our application to him, upon which he ordered each of us a plantain. After this we returned to our black landlady, who stood our best friend, and had provided a hot supper against our coming back. She advised us to go directly to Leon, which was a large city, where was a Spanish governor, to which place we might get in two days; to stay here any longer, she said, would be to starve ourselves to death. We took her advice, and the morning following she put us in the road to Leon.

By noon we came to an Indian town, where, as we heard, lived a friar, a good man, to whom we applied for help, and he was so charitable as to give every one of us a real. We made no stay here, but went on, and about sun-set got to another village, where

where we endeavoured to get something to eat, but could not; however, we were conducted to a range to sleep in for that night.

About noon the next day we entered the town of Leon, and the first enquiry we made was after the governor, whom we meant to address before all persons; but we were told he was gone out of town. Leon is a large and populous town, having a great church, and a fine convent filled with devotees. We went one day to the convent to ask charity, where the father presently asked, if we were Christians? When I told them we were, they desired to be informed, by whom we had been baptized? I told them, by clergymen of the church of England: Why then, said they, you are no Christians, for they have no power to baptize, you are married, and have children. As they were discoursing me upon this head, came a negro-woman, and said, that her master Don Emanuel desired to speak with us; we went with her immediately to his house, where he asked us such questions only as good-nature and curiosity suggested; all which I resolved the best I could. When he heard we had delivered our pass to the alcald of Contyagua, before we crossed the great gulph, and were now without any, he said we must have one, for otherwise there would be no travelling; and was very sorry, that his father, whom he stiled our countryman, though born in  
Ireland,

Ireland, and who was treasurer and secretary to the governor, and could do as he pleased with him, should be out of town at this critical juncture; for, had he been in the way, he assured us we should have had a pass immediately; but he promised to go with us the next day to the alcald-major, or sub-governor, and try to get one from him. He went with us according to promise, and obtained the pass, and then advised us to go to Granada, where he said vessels were frequently built to go to Porto-Bello, which advice of our good friend we resolved to follow. This gentleman treated us with extraordinary kindness and hospitality the time we staid at Leon, which was three days; after which we took leave of him, and set out for Granada.

We left Leon in the morning, and the same day in the evening got to an Indian village, and shewed our pass to the alcald of the place; but, as he could not read it, I told him, that the governor had commanded all the alcalds where we should come to provide us with victuals; but he gave us to understand, it was not in his power so to do, for that the inhabitants here had little or nothing for themselves, and that he feared we should hear the same complaint in other places; and so in reality we did wherever we went for eighteen days together, after we left this village; and above all, the greatest misery



misery was, that water was as scarce in these parts as victuals, insomuch that whenever we came to any puddle, or tracks of beasts feet, where moisture had gathered, though it were discoloured and stunk ever so much, we never failed to lay ourselves down and drink it up, and I may say with satisfaction. Our only food in that time was a few poor dry berries, such as our hips and haws; however, as bad as they were, we were glad when we found any, for they were not always to be had. We passed through many villages, that stood pretty thick on a fine level land, very easy for the feet, and delightful to the eye, having every here and there thickets of trees and groves, with rising and falling ground that afforded beautiful prospects.

At length we came to a mountain, which we were obliged to pass over, from the top of which we could see the great lake of Nicaragua. Having descended this mountain, we came to an Indian village, where we saw three gentlemen of an order of friars, who sent for us, and examined us strictly of our country and religion, but more particularly concerning our present state and government; to which I answered as I could. These gentlemen were on their way from Granada to Leon; they provided us the best supper we had met with a long time, gave

us every one a real, and provided us with a night's lodging.

The next morning we got to the lake of Nicaragua, and keeping on the side of it, we passed through many villages, and at last came into the town of Granada, and went directly to the alcald-major, who is always a Spaniard, and shewed him our pass; upon which he gave us two reals apiece, and said we must be lodged in prison whilst we staid here, but not to be kept as prisoners under confinement, for we should every day have our liberty to go about the town as we pleased; so that this was no great mortification to us.

Granada is very large, and has three churches, with convents for several holy orders in it. Perceiving a numerous clergy here, we thought proper to intreat their assistance, and some of them relieved us, and some did not. We found that in this town cocoa passed as current coin, seventy nuts of which were valued at a real of plate.

A gentleman, who is receiver-general of the king's revenue in this part of the country, came one day to the prison on purpose to ask us some questions concerning our misfortunes, which when I had answered he bade us come to his house every day, where we should ever find relief, and for the present gave us a large mat to sleep on, for till then we had lain on the bare ground. This gentleman,

tleman, having a ship that traded in the South Sea, offered, if we would stay here, to employ us therein; but I replied, that we were determined to get to our own country, if possible; otherwise we would gladly have served him. Here being some flat-bottomed vessels building to go to Porto-Bello, by the way of the lake of Nicaragua, we went to the master of one of them, to try if we could get a passage with him, who said that if we could procure a pass, permitting us to go by the castle of St. John, standing on an island in the neck of the lake, about fifty leagues from hence, he would not only give us our passage, but pay us handsomely for our labour. This castle of St. John commands all vessels that pass up the lake, the channel being so narrow, and full of bars and shoals, that it is impossible for any vessel to sail up it, and not borrow close upon the castle, for which reason he durst not take us without a pass. The governor of the castle, in whose power only it was to grant us a pass, being at this time at Granada, we went and petitioned him on that matter, at the same time setting forth our great hardships, our inability to endure more, and remonstrating, that if he did not grant us this favour, so much and so immediately in his power, we should be compelled to travel many hundreds of leagues out of our way, and go over the mountains of Nicaragua, a thing deemed

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impracticable for foot passengers; and in short, that we were informed we had all the most difficult part of the country yet to go through, and in the worst season of the year, that is, the time of the rains. His reply was, that he had instructions from the king of Spain not to suffer any Englishmen to pass up or down the lake, and that therefore he could not, nor would comply with our request. This flat denial utterly dismayed us; yet what is very natural to persons driven even to despair itself, that is, to hover about the thing on which they have once built their hopes, was now our case. We could not forbear hovering about the lake of Nicaragua, thinking how easily we might have attained our ends that way, could we have obtained a pass.

As we were walking up and down in this pensive mood we chanced to meet a company of Indians, among whom was a countryman of our's, who appeared to be almost starved to death. We asked him how long he had been in this country? He said almost five years; and that he had travelled about from place to place in hopes of getting out of it, but still never the nearer to his journey's end. He told us his name was Robert Barnwell, and that he was born at West-Chester. It seems he had been taken in the same manner we had been, and set on shore with several others, who are all dead, and he only left  
alive.



alive to bemoan his hard fate. He said, "That he had tried every way he could think of to get home to England, but that all his endeavours had proved unsuccessful; so that now he never expected to leave this country." He said likewise, "That the last effort he made to that end was by prevailing with a master of a vessel, who was bound from Granada to Porto-Bello, by way of the lake, to take him along with him, but that when they came to the castle of St. John he was discovered, and turned back; for that the Spaniards should say, if once the English came to know the nature of this lake, they would soon become masters of this part of the country."

The lake of Nicaragua vents itself into the North Sea, and, though it be very shallow, is about fifteen leagues broad in the widest part, but near the castle it is not above a mile over, as Barnwell informed us. When we had heard thus much of his story, we acquainted him with part of our's, and said, that since our late disappointment we had agreed (by the help of God) to go to Nicoya, and that if he was willing to bear us company, we would take our chance together. He was very well pleased with the proposal, but, as he was sick and weak, feared he should not be able to perform the journey; however, we comforted him by saying he might stay here till he got strength, for that we were obliged

obliged to wait for our carpenter, who was at work in building a vessel, at which he could earn two Spanish dollars a day. He was employed eight days, and received his wages, with which he purchased himself a frock, which in reality was worth no more than two shillings sterling, so excessively dear are all sorts of cloathing in these parts.

At this time an accident happened in the prison where we lodged that might have proved fatal to us, had not some precaution been used. The matter was this : five Mallatta men, who were closely confined in irons for the barbarous murder of an alcaid-major, were passed from St. Michael's to this town, in order to be sent to the castle of St. John, there to remain during life. Two of these very fellows came in one of our canoes, when we crossed the great gulph of Fonseca, being at that time loaded with irons. These men were laid for the present among other criminals, in the next room to us ; and one night, when we were asleep, they called out, as if in great surprise, to an old Indian who lay in the room with us, who was an officer of some authority, as well in the town as in the prison. He, starting suddenly out of his sleep at the noise, caught up a light, and ran to see what was the matter. When he had unlocked the outward door, supposing the inward one to be fast, as he had found that,

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the villains rushed upon him, and in a violent manner laid on him with staves, till he fell down for dead. We awaking with the hurliburly, and supposing it to be among the prisoners, for that we missed the old man, got up between sleeping and waking, and ran to enquire into the cause of the disturbance. By the time we had got to the place where we thought we heard the noise, it ceased, and we found all in darkness. At last we chanced to stumble over a body, which lay in the door-way of the place where these men were kept. We endeavoured to raise it, but perceiving no signs of life in it, we concluded the ruffians had broke their gaol, and murdered the old gentleman, our chamber-fellow, and that this was his body; the thoughts of which threw us into a terrible consternation, especially when we reflected, that we, being wanderers in a strange land, and under no small degree of odium, might be held in suspicion of being accessory with them in so horrid a crime, and perhaps be punished as being guilty of the fact. Upon this consideration I advised that we should go forthwith to the alcald-major of the town. and acquaint him with what had happened. We did so; and, though it was in the dead of the night, he rose, and came himself along with us to the prison, but took care to be well guarded by his officers; and as we went along, he highly commended our care and  
fidelity

fidelity in this affair. At our return to the prison we were very glad to find our old friend, whom we had supposed to be dead, revived, though much bruised, and afflicted for the loss of his prisoners, who had made their escape, and left their chains and shackles behind, strewed about in pieces.

The alcald commanded strict search to be made after them, and the next day they were found to have taken sanctuary in a church belonging to a monastery of Franciscan friars here, who refused to deliver them up to justice, saying, since they were fled thither, they were bound to shelter them from the rigour of the law. We thankfully acknowledged the good Providence that had directed every thing in this matter, so as to free us from the least imputation of confederacy with these vile wretches, though we had, before we came here, been obliged to travel some way with them.

Whilst we staid here canoes arrived frequently with Indians who dwelt on the other side the lake, and who brought with them creatures like a guana, or rather a lizard, but as big as a mastiff dog. These are sold in Granada at a great price, and they that can afford to eat so delicately are happy. I have eat of them, and though their look is not altogether inviting, yet, when they are dressed, they taste better than any fowl. These Indians differ both in features and  
complexion



complexion from any other Indians I ever saw, and having hair of an unusual length, are therefore commonly called the long-haired Indians.

When we had given over all thoughts of getting away from hence by shipping, I made it my business to enquire out the better way to go to Nicoya, and found that all people agreed there was no avoiding the mountains of Nicaragua; but at the same time they assured us, it was impossible to travel over them on foot, and without arms, on account of the tygers and other beasts of prey that swarmed there; however, as we had no choice to make, we knew we must run all hazards, and put it to the venture. It had rained almost all the time of our being here, wherefore we knew it must be bad travelling; but having picked up what we could to help us on our way, after a stay of ten days, we departed for Nicoya. Barnwell was not able to travel with us on account of his weakness.

Having got about two leagues from Granada, we met with some Indians, who satisfied us we were going right, and a little farther we overtook two others who were going our way, with whom we associated till they came to their journey's end. Mr. Banister beginning to grow very ill at this time, we made haste to a range, where we got him some milk, and procured what other help we could

could towards his recovery ; but he growing worse, in such a manner as plainly shewed he would not soon be able to travel, and the poor people we were among not being able to sustain such a company as we were together, we were constrained to leave him alone with them till he should be better, and have an opportunity to follow us.

Not far from hence is a large savanna, which, by reason of the rains, was now quite overflowed ; this we waded through, though the water reached up to our shoulders, and though the mud and stench that arose from the bottom were enough to poison any thing that had life. We were almost a whole day getting over this filthy place, and then came to a whigwam, where we found some Indians, who told us we had taken the wrong way, and wondered how we had been able to get over it. These people were so far from helping us to water to wash ourselves that they could not give us any to drink, though we were in exceeding want of it ; however, we were glad to lie down to rest in the nasty pickle we were in.

Before we set out in the morning they told us we should come to St. Thomas's by night, where we might get plantains enough ; accordingly, by sun-set we reached it, and found it to be the country-seat of a priest, who was not there at that time. We staid, however, with his servants two days, expecting

ing our fellow-traveller Banister, who did not come; all this time it rained hard. The house stands very pleasantly among cocoa and plantain walks, and abundance of fruit trees.

On the third day we departed from hence, and for a good way met with nothing but cocoa, plantain, and several other sorts of fruit trees. Cocoa grows on small trees in great pods, as big as melons, some of which contain sixty or eighty kernels inclosed in white skins, which skins are taken off, and the nuts thrown into water, and those that sink are counted good for use, when dried by the sun.

The next place we came to was a small village, where was an Indian alcaid, to whom we shewed our pass, and who used us in a kind obliging manner, ordering us plenty of chocolate, besides whatever his house afforded to eat, and moreover promised to take care we should have provisions to help us over the mountains, which, he said, was a long, long way, and where none but Indians durst travel on foot. After we had eaten and drank pretty heartily, being very weary, we began to grow drowsy, and there not being conveniency for so many of us to lodge in the house, we went into the yard, and laid ourselves down under a little covering of boards, and there fell fast asleep. How long we lay thus I cannot say, but at last Mr. Rounce waked us with a story, that he had seen an

old gentleman very richly dressed, carried along the yard into the house, whom he verily believed to be an Englishman; for that he called to him as he passed by, and said in English, How do you do, countryman? But this, he said, was not the only reason he had to believe him such; for that the first moment he cast his eyes upon him he knew his face, and remembered he had been particularly acquainted with him some years before in England. We asked him what answer he made? He said none; for that his surprise was so great he had not power to open his mouth. For my part, as I had been asleep all the while myself, and knew nothing of the matter, I was apt to think that he had been so too, and knew as little, but that he had dreamed the story, and awaking suddenly out of his sleep imagined it to be matter of fact: however, to be certain of the thing, we got up, and went directly into the house, and there found the old gentleman in reality sitting in a sort of chair; he was wrapped up in a cloak very richly embroidered with gold, but seemed to be superannuated. We stood looking at him very stedfastly; but he said not one word, nor took the least notice of us, till curiosity led me to ask him, in Spanish, if he was of Old Spain? Upon which he answered very quick, in English, that he was no Spaniard, but came from London many years ago, and said



said no more. I went on to ask him several other questions, but he answered none of them; and then the alcald, and others who were about him, desired I would not talk to him any more, saying, indeed he was our countryman, but was now old and sick, and not capable of answering; upon which I held my peace, perceiving they had no mind any discourse should pass between us. By this time Mr. Rounce had taken a thorough view of him, and was well satisfied that he was the man he had imagined him to be; and then he told us that his name was Edmund Underwood; that he had been master of a vessel, and had lived at Yarmouth, where he knew both him and his father very well, who was a rope-maker. This man, it seems, had been missing many years, as his son informed Mr. Rounce since our arrival in England. We staid here but one night, and the next morning took leave of the alcald, who gave us twelve tamawlas of Indian corn, and each of us two reals in cocoa, bidding us be sure to go to the other alcald at the old town of Nicaragua, and get something of him.

As we went along we saw little birds no bigger than a grasshopper, of a whitish colour, which, as they flew from tree to tree, were hardly perceivable. In the evening we got to the alcald of the old town, and told him our errand, who said he would do what

he could for us, and for the present bade us go about the town, and ask every one to give us something towards helping us over the mountains. We did so, and of some we got plantains, and of others jerk beef, so that we presently picked up as much as we were able to carry.

On the third day of our abode here arrived three friars, who were just come from over the mountains of Nicaragua, on mules, well guarded by armed Indians. When they heard we were going to travel over them on foot, they endeavoured to dissuade us from an attempt which, they said, must prove our ruin; for that, if we had no arms to defend us from the tygers, we should soon be devoured. They were in great trouble about a dog they very much valued, which they had lost on the mountains, and which they supposed to be torn in pieces by the tygers. These gentlemen gave us some segars to smoke, which they supposed would be very acceptable. These are leaves of tobacco rolled up in such manner that they serve both for a pipe and tobacco itself. These the ladies, as well as gentlemen, are very fond of smoking, but indeed they know no other way here; for there is no such thing as a tobacco-pipe throughout New Spain, but poor awkward tools used by the Indians.

The alcald, at whose house we were at this time, had got a large ram, which, being  
mischievous,

mischievous, was kept tied up in a back place, where we had never seen him. Now we were appointed to lie without the house, under a sort of shed, where hung two hammocks. One morning when we were just risen, and thought nothing of the matter, the ram, which was broke loose, and had got sight of us, came running furiously at us, and in the first place assaulted John Balman, getting him down, and butting at him with his horns with might and main. I seeing this ran with design to rescue my companion; upon which the ram left him, and fell upon me with all his force. Finding my antagonist a little too strong for me, the only expedient I could think of to recover myself was to dodge him round a tree, where we both played our parts very dextrously; but fortune, that does not always favour the politic, any more than the brave, together with the slipperiness of the place, occasioned my foot to slide, bringing me down, and by that means gave my enemy the advantage over me, who had not the generosity to suffer me to rise, and fairly renew the combat, but in that condition fell on me so violently that he not only bruised me extremely, but broke one of my ribs, before I could recover my feet: however, as soon as I got on my legs again, I began to study revenge for the injury; and whilst I looked round, to see if I could come at any stick or cudgel, Mr.

Rounce, who had been gone on one side, and knew nothing of this fray, happened to come forward unwarily and unprepared. Upon this the bravo, flushed with success, and being resolved, as it seemed, to push his conquest to the utmost, as vigorously attacked him as he had before done us, which luckily gave me an opportunity to fall upon him in the rear; for I did not think myself bound in honour to stand upon ceremony with one that had given me no quarter. At last I seized my gentleman by the horns, and pummelled him pretty heartily with my fist on the head and nose, till the blood ran down the latter; upon this he began to find he had got enough, and seemed inclined to retreat; but we resolved not to let him come off so, and therefore two of us held him, and the other went and got sticks, and then beat him till we had thoroughly humbled him. By this time came a negro and some Indian women who belonged to the house, and led him to be tied up, and he, being acquainted with them, submitted patiently to their discipline. This ram was the only sheep we saw throughout the country, and I should have had no occasion to have been sorry if I had missed the sight of him. As for my part, though I laughed at the encounter as soon as over, and have often done so since, yet in the main I had no cause to make a jest of it; for I endured a great deal  
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of pain on account of my broken rib, and particularly at the time it was fresh, and was obliged to travel for many days over those desperate mountains of Nicaragua. The alcald and his wife were very much concerned to see me bruised, and applied plaisters and remedies to the parts affected.

We tarried here six days in expectation of our fellow-traveller Banister's overtaking us, but finding he did not come, we began to give him over for lost, and so agreed to stay no longer. Accordingly the next morning we set out, after paying our respects to the alcald and his family, they directing us our way. This is the pleasantest and most fruitful part of the country that we saw between the watery savanna and the foot of the mountains.

We spent most of this day in travelling through a wood, where was variety of fruit, and at last came to a great river, which we crossed, and had not gone above a musquet shot before we came to an old range, which, as night was approaching, proved a great conveniency for us to lie in; therefore we went directly to seek for wood, and then made a good fire, not forgetting to fill our calabashes with water. This night there happened such a terrible storm of wind, thunder, lightning, and rain, that, what with the hideous yelling of wild beasts, and the falling of huge trees occasioned by the storm,

storm, a man would have thought himself in another world; however, by morning the storm ceased, but the rain continued as much as ever, so that there was no travelling for us. Our greatest concern now was, that, if this weather held, our provisions would be all spent before we came to the mountains. We had two sorts of money, one of plate, and the other of cocoa. I told my companions, that I would put my cocoa money to such an use, as should stand me in more stead at present than all the plate of the Indians could produce, that was, I said, to save my provisions; and, to convince them of what I said, I got three stones, one I put into the fire, and made it red-hot, and then roasted my cocoa-nuts; I then ground them between the other two stones till I had made them up into a paste, and having contrived to boil water in a calabash, which is but a thin shell, and having got a mull made of two or three sticks, that served for the purpose, I made as good chocolate as a man would desire to drink. Then all hands went to work, and did after the same manner; so that in this method we found a double convenience, inasmuch as we were thereby comfortably regaled, and at the same time eased of a troublesome luggage, that would have proved too burdensome for us; whereas, by continuing this practice, it lessened by degrees, and our money became no load to us.

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After this we washed ourselves at the river; near which were numbers of monkies; one we took notice of in particular, a she-monkey, that had three young ones, one clung about her neck, and the other two she hugged, in each arm one, as a woman would hold a couple of children. With these she swang from tree to tree by her tail, and at last dropped from a very high tree to a low one, without making the least use of her fore paws. Towards night we busied ourselves in gathering wood to keep up our fire, being highly necessary during our stay here to rest ourselves. At this time a dog met us, that came and stood close by us, making us expect presently to see some Indians, but none came; however, we desired nothing more than that the dog might stay, and keep us company over the mountains. We gave him such victuals as we could best spare, and the poor beast fawned, and seemed content to be with us. Now what makes this accident remarkable is, that we had frequently desired only to have a dog to go with us over the mountains, believing he might prove a good guard, or at least to alarm us in case of any approaching danger. We must have been stupid not to have admired the care which Providence had of us in this particular.

The weather proving fair next day, we agreed to get as near the mountains as possible,

ble, and accordingly set out with our dog. After wading through several very bad savannas, up to our middles in water, about sun-set we reached the foot of the mountains, taking up our abode there that night, and next morning began to ascend one of them; but by noon, our provision being grown burthensome, to ease us of some of the weight, we sat down and filled our bellies, not forgetting our dog, and then divided every man his share to carry himself.

This mountain is all over full of holes and deep cracks, so that almost every step we took we sunk up to our middles, though we followed in the tracks of mules feet. Having at length got down this mountain, it brought us to a river running betwixt the mountains, and very broad and muddy: we were obliged to wade through it, though we afterwards found by experience it was full of holes at the bottom, like the mountain we had just passed; and, as we could have no marks here to guide our feet by, I concluded we should all perish before we got out of it. We laboured several hours with great difficulty up to our necks in water, and could see no end to it, or so much as find a resting-place, not even for a moment; for the mountains on each side of us were exceedingly high, and steep as a house-side; however, providence supported us, till at last

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we found out a passage that led us up between the mountains.

We ascended one of them directly, weary as we were, and on the top thereof found a plain clear spot of ground, from whence we saw the burning mountain of Bombaco, not being far from us: that mountain voids great quantities of sulphureous matter, and there also is found much pumice-stone. We believed there was not a better place than this to take up our night's lodging at; therefore we made up a blazing fire, to sit by and rest us, for sleep we durst not for fear of the tygers. And now our dog proved of real service to us: for nothing could stir but his barking and roaring furiously gave us notice to stand upon our defence, having fire brands in our hands. Thus the nights passed in watching and ceaseless terror, and our days in toil and unspeakable labour, and equal hazard; and thus we went on from mountain to mountain, till we had passed the chain of them, but many times by such ways and means as might seem incredible if related, at least to Europeans, for no Europeans ever travelled this country before us in the manner we did. Sometimes we were obliged to ascend and descend the mountains by roads or paths, but little more than mere edges of lands, having such prodigious precipices on each side, that the least slip or turn of our feet might have carried us to another world, and never  
more

more have been seen, and very often loaded mules, if the ground proves slippery, are lost this way, though they are the most sure-footed creatures in the world. At other times, when we were not on these narrow ways, tygers, panthers, wolves, &c. continually alarmed us both day and night; and if there was no fire to defend ourselves against them, (and had we been masters of any arms before, we could not have burthened ourselves in carrying them at this time) those creatures often stood at some distance, and stared at us as in an amaze; experience taught us, that if we turned off hastily to go from them, they would steal after us in a lurking manner, as they shewed they only waited their time to seize us; but if we turned suddenly, and faced them boldly, or advanced near them, they seemed surprised, and looked full in our faces for some time, and then, as though not willing to encounter us face to face, made off as hard as they could drive. When we had found out this way of dealing with them, it much abated our fears; but we often pitied our poor dog, so jaded and tired out that he could scarcely drag his legs after him; but for all our parts, what we endured is inexpressible; and certain it is, that, could we have been truly sensible that these mountains were really so bad before we undertook to go over them, we should have been so far from attempting

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it that to have been made lords and masters of the country, including all the riches contained therein, could not have been sufficient to bribe us to such an undertaking; but every man of us would rather have chose to sit down with the Indians, as contentedly as he could, and have spent all his life-time after their wild and uncomfortable manner. True it is, indeed, that both Spaniards and Indians had often warned us, that it would be impracticable for us to travel over these mountains; but we vainly imagined we should not meet with the terrible bugbears they represented to us; and, as the old proverb has it, we fancied they made mountains of mole-hills.

But, not to trouble the reader with a farther account of the particulars of this melancholy part of our journey, I shall only say, that with infinite toil and danger, and by the assistance of God Almighty, we overcame all difficulty, and at last got clear of the dismal and inhospitable mountains of Nicaragua, and passed by the side of a savanna, on a rising ground, where two rakes of mules were grazing.

These were going over the mountains, but had been resting here two or three days before they undertook the painful journey so much complained of. I asked the Indians with them, how far it was to any inhabitants? They said, there were very few in this part  
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of the country, and but only here and there a range, some ten, and some twenty leagues distant from each other, but there was one we might get to before night.

We were at this time as destitute of cloathing as ever; for though we had all drawers soon after we left St. Michael's, yet, as they were of a poor thin stuff, they soon wore to tatters; so that we had scarcely a rag of them left to cover our nakedness. We spent the whole day in search of this range, but to no purpose. Night drawing on, and we being very weary; my companions proposed, that we should lay us down where we were, and rest till morning; but my advice was to go on in search of harbour, whilst the moon continued to shine, which they at last agreed to, though indeed we were so exceedingly fatigued, that we thought ourselves fit only to lie down and die. Towards the setting of the moon a terrible storm of thunder, lightning, and rain came on; at which time we were on an open savanna, without any shelter, except here and there a few shrubby trees, some of which we crept under, having first made a little fire of such brushy wood as could be got, which the storm soon extinguished, and thus we lay till morning, when, finding a range with two Indians, and they seeing our deplorable condition, made us a good fire, and gave us hot milk, which was such a refreshment as we had not met with for many days



days past. This range is appointed purposely for the relief of travellers, and belongs to a company of friars, who keep it always well stored with jerk beef and milk. Now this is the method they take to milk their cows, as well here as in other parts of this country; they go into the savannas, and catch young calves, which they bring home, and inclose in a pen, raised high on purpose to preserve them from tygers, and other beasts of prey, but leave one place open for the cows to get in, that will not fail to come in the night, and suckle them. In the morning they drive them out, and tie a calf to the fore-leg of each cow, and whilst she is licking her young one, they milk her; but they make little other use of the milk than to get the cream, which they keep in calabashes to eat with their plantains; so that, if we happened to come any where when they were milking, they never denied us as much as we could drink. These Indians told us, we might get to Nicoya in ten or fifteen days, and at parting gave us as much jerk beef as we were willing to have. This meat is in long slips, and so dried by the sun to make it keep, that it is hard and insipid as a stick; whenever we dressed any of it afterwards, we were forced to mash it between a couple of stones, else it could never have been eaten.

Not far from hence is a great river, which we were three days endeavouring to cross, but in vain, till the fourth. On the other side of this river is a great range, called St. Domingo, where we found a negroe man and woman, who, upon our telling them our country, professed they loved the English well, but not the Spaniards; and indeed we found the good effects of this disposition in them, for they behaved wonderfully kind and friendly to us. We staid here one night, and in the morning they directed us to a place called St. Thomas's, where they said lived a Spaniard, who was a good man.

By the way we saw a creature hasting towards us, somewhat resembling a bear, but very crooked, and of a sandy colour; and believing he had a mischievous design upon us, we made shift to kill it with our sticks. In the evening we got to St. Thomas's, and met with the Spanish gentleman, who fully answered the good character given him by the negroes. Upon hearing our distress, he presently ordered his Indians to boil some fresh beef for us after our own way, and to make us some turtillias, at the same time making us the offer of staying with them as long as we pleased; and as a farther mark of his goodness and charity, he promised us, that whenever we left him we should not go away empty of provisions. We staid here

two days, and by that time were a little rested; but, lest we should miss of a bark at Nicoya bound for Panama, we thought it best to set out from hence, and accordingly took leave of our kind benefactor with many thanks. This day we passed by a range, but could see no one near it: this range was open every way, it being nothing but a roof made of cane, covered with leaves, and supported with four props. We went on till we came to the great gulph of Haradura, wherein are many islands. As we found there was no way for us to cross this gulph, we resolved to return to the open range, there to sit a while, and consider what course we should take; but at our coming there we found an Indian man, who put us in the right way, and by sun-set we got to two whigwams that were inhabited. Here we were informed, that a countryman of our's was at this time in one of these whigwams, who was come hither with some Indians from Granada. This proved to be Robert Barnwell, whom we found by the lake of Nicaragua, near that town, and who at our departure from thence was in so feeble a state of body that he was not able to undertake the journey with us. He told us, that after he had recovered a little strength he met with an opportunity to follow us, in company with some Indians, who were to travel this way, and that he had been endeavouring with them to get over the

great river that flows into the gulph of Haradura, but that, the current being very rapid, he should undoubtedly have been drowned, had they not saved him; and that afterwards, fearing he should be farther troublesome to them, they brought him back to this place, where they had left him, and were now gone on by themselves; so that, having lost his guides, he had given over all thoughts of ever seeing us more, little imagining that this unlucky accident, as it seemed to be, should prove the means of what he so much desired: and this shews how difficult it is to judge what will not be for our good; what we dread the consequence of most often proves most for our advantage; as, on the contrary, what we prosecute with eagerness, and the greatest care and industry, proves frequently, upon the upshot, to be what we ought of all things to have avoided. Here we lay one night, but the place was so over-run with vermin that it was impossible to sit still or rest a moment all the time. The Indians themselves lie under pavilions, on places made of cane, raised two feet from the ground, and so closely wrought that even a muskitoe cannot get at them.

At day-break next morning we departed from hence, with our friend Barnwell; and after taking some pains to find out where it was easiest to cross the river, we got over it, and



and came on a savanna, where we saw great numbers of large wolves. By evening we got to a range, where we staid all night, but no sleep could we get in this part of the country because of the vermin. The next day we came among great droves of wild cattle, which the Indians inhabiting hereabouts kill only for their hides and tallow, leaving the carcases on the ground, which are soon devoured by a sort of carrion-crows as big as our geese. There is a law here which makes it death for any Indian, or other person, to destroy one of these crows; for this no reason can be given, unless they are reckoned a means of keeping off pestilential distempers, by devouring up the carcases, which else might lie and putrefy, and so infect the air.

As we travelled on we gathered a fruit something like a plumb, but very yellow, which grew on stalks about two feet high. Having observed the wild hogs to be very fond of this fruit, we made no scruple to eat freely of it, and found it to have a pleasant luscious taste; but such was the effect it had on us, that our mouths and throats were thereby so swelled and inflamed we could neither eat nor drink for two days after. At sun-set we met some Indians that were killing cattle, of whom we might have had beef enough could we have eat it; yet they gave us some to carry with us, and the next day

day they directed us to go over certain mountains, whose tops, they told us as a sign to know them by, could not be seen, and then they said we should get to Nicoya in two or three days.

These mountains we passed in two days, but were all the way intolerably plagued with a filthy kind of vermin, like a bug, which fastened on us in swarms, that they could not be scraped off with our knife. We had often been annoyed by this sort of insect before, but not to this degree; and had it not been for the Indians, who picked them off us, they had eaten into our flesh, and could never have been got out, as they told us.

On the third day we arrived at Nicoya, and, after we had rested ourselves, went to the alcald major, and shewed him our pass; and he directly enquired how we came into this country? I told him, and gave him an account of our travels as punctually as I could remember; and, said I, we are come hither in expectation of finding a bark bound for Panama; but he assured us there was none at present, nor did he know when any would arrive from thence, and this being the season of rains and storms, he did not expect any till better weather; but that we might depend on going by the first opportunity that offered, and this was as much as could be expected. He then ordered an  
Indian

Indian to go with us to the covilda, that is, a house he has on purpose to entertain strangers in, and then sent us some boiled beef, and every man a turtillia, and soon after came himself, and bade us eat heartily, saying he had a great esteem for the English, and spake very complaisantly of our nation; assuring us, at the same time, that we should not want victuals, or any thing in his power; as long as we staid at his house.

We had been here two days, when he sent for the Indian alcalds, that governed two adjacent villages, and gave them charge to entertain us alternately every day; but we supposed this was done only to try, either their obedience to his commands, or see how charitable they would be to us; for he sent no more than once to them, and then they entertained us very civilly. We found the table set out in great order, the tablecloth being a large green leaf, about twelve feet long, and five broad. This leaf grows on a stalk, about fifteen or twenty feet high, that bears but one leaf at a time, and that on the very top. Then they gave every one of us some beef and a tomawla; and after that they brought us several sorts of fruit, as ripe plantains, and sopotoes, which are a very delicious fruit. After dinner we returned to the alcald, and gave him an account of the good reception we had met with, who was well pleased to find his orders so chearfully

fully obeyed. All the alcald majors we hitherto met were Spaniards, but this gentleman was born in Brittany in France, and his name is Michael de Boyce, or du Bois; he keeps an Indian woman, the daughter of an alcald at Constorica (whether she be his wife or not I cannot tell), by whom he had one child; and it would be the height of ingratitude not to own, that she, as well as himself, was extremely kind to us, during our whole stay with them. The short account I have given of this gentleman may be of some satisfaction to his brother, who, as he told us himself, is a merchant in London.

At this time Mr. Rounce fell ill again, but was used with greater care and tenderness than could well have been hoped for by people in our circumstances. Having spoken of the chief magistrate of this town, and of his generosity to me, I will next give some account of the town itself, and likewise of its inhabitants.

Nicoya is situated in a valley, surrounded by very high mountains, for there is no coming at it without passing some of them; yet no place affords a more delightful prospect, or is kept in greater order and neatness. The Indians suffer nothing to grow near it, except fruit-trees, for fear of harbouring vermin; and this method has so good an effect, that there is not so much as a muskito to be seen or felt in all the place, though  
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the mountains above it are covered with woods. As to the people, they are of so quiet and peaceable a disposition, and so free from noise and tumult, that a man might be here entire days or weeks, and were it not for seeing them pass by him now and then in the streets, or at their houses, he would not believe there was an inhabitant in it. Though we were here six weeks, and often went to their houses, being very conversant with them, I never heard any of them quarrel, or so much as dispute with one another, but every one seemed to be calm and easy, and much inclined to adhere to each other's advice; they would often come out on moon light nights, and divert themselves by singing and dancing to their wind-music, which is soft, and not unpleasant. They would frequently ask us to sing and dance with them, which we sometimes did after our manner, to humour them, and they would laugh heartily at us, and seemed very desirous to understand the words as they were uttered in the songs. The women would often look on us, admiring the whiteness of our skins (though we were none of the fairest, and at that time tanned like gypsies) and asked in great simplicity, if our women had skins as white as our's; but when we told them how far they exceeded us in complexion and persons, they thought it strange indeed.

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When the women lie-in here, they keep up very close for some days, and are not seen by any. Now their manner of rearing their children is to let them crawl about on the ground on their hands and knees, till they are able to rise of themselves; and while they are young their parents take no pains to teach or instruct them in any thing, though they are as great lovers of children as any people in the world. Instead of rattles, dolls, tops and balls, and such other things as our children are wont to play with, these people give their children the heads, tails, and paws of wild beasts to divert them; and this they do, I suppose, on purpose to use them to those creatures by degrees, knowing they will in the course of their lives have occasion not to be afraid of encountering them. They are a very prudent and chaste people, and have so great a regard to decency and modest behaviour, that in all the time we were here I never saw a man so much as kiss the lips of a woman.

We had been here nineteen days, when our fellow-traveller Banister came into this town. Providence had so ordered it, that when he was recovered a little from his illness, he met with some Indians, who were going over the mountains of Nicaragua with a rake of mules to Constorica. They, finding him to be weak, and left alone to lament his misfortunes, had the charity and good-

good-nature to take him with them on a mule, not doubting but they should meet with us at Nicoya, as well knowing we could get no nearer to Panama by land; because all the way between here and there is very mountainous and but thinly inhabited. We were much pleased to have our old friend with us once again, whom we feared we should never more have seen. How many times had we wished to know how his case stood? And how often did we despair of so much as once hearing whether he was dead or alive? but now our satisfaction was general, inasmuch as we were all six met together.

At this time was held a great cantico among the Indians, after the manner we described at St. Michael's; only I shall take notice, that when such public festivals are kept here, they will carry their music into the churches, and dance in their masquerade habits before the image of the Virgin, by way of doing her honour. And now I am speaking of their churches it may not be improper to give a short account of their manner of burying the dead: they lay the corpse on a sort of bier, dressed up, and adorned with flowers of various kinds or whatever the deceased liked best when living; then the body is carried on four men's shoulders (being preceded by many playing on instruments of music) towards the church wherein it is

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to be interred, and is followed by all the neighbouring Indians round about, singing hymns in praise of the dead; when it is laid in the grave it is covered with a composition resembling lime, the chief ingredient whereof is the dung of certain birds, which will consume it in a short time. If there be a priest in or near the place where the person dies, he performs the funeral ceremony; if not, it is done by the company before the image of the blessed Virgin, to which they pay great homage, and believe that will do as well.

Whilst we staid in this town we were free from annoyance of any sort, except from a kind of bird like a bat, but bigger, having a long tail, which constantly, as we slept in the night, bit little pieces of flesh from us, and particularly from our feet.

Having now been at Nicoya six weeks, the alcaid major acquainted us there was a Spanish gentleman came from Wattemall to Alberoy, which was but three or four days journey from hence, and that he was going to Pueblo Nuevo, which is not above one hundred leagues on that side Panama, and that he went with one canoe and a piragua, by which means, we that were in health might get a passage, for that he had treated with him on that score; but that Mr. Rounce, who still continued very bad, must stay till another opportunity offered. All our men  
except



except myself had been very ill during our stay here, and all but him were better. The next day the alcald sent for the rest of us to his house, and, after giving us some provision and tobacco, took his leave of us in a very courteous manner, and when we had returned him our humble thanks for all the many kind favours he had conferred on us, set out for the river in order to embark.

It took us up three days travelling over high and steep mountains, seeing but three whigwams by the way, and then wading over a savanna up to our middles in water; at the end of four days we arrived at Alberoy, finding there the Spanish gentleman, named Quintus Cataline, and his Indians busy in making ready the craft, but the sails being a little out of repair, I undertook the next day to mend them. When all things were ready, and our provision laid in, viz. jerk beef and Indian corn, Banister, Balman, and Holland were appointed to go in the piragua, and Barnwell and myself in the little canoe; but before we set sail, our three comrades, that were to have gone in the piragua, fell sick again; upon which account Cataline left them at Alberoy, and sent notice thereof to the alcald of Nicoya that he might take care of them.

In the month of October we set sail from Alberoy in our little canoe, and five Indians to assist us, and were to go in her above

three hundred leagues, accompanied by the piragua. In three days we sailed down the river, called Tauro or Bulls, wherein we often saw alligators above thirty feet long, and then landed on the island of Chira, staying there for a wind to carry us over the gulph of Salines. Whilst we staid on this island, three days, we built ourselves ranges, not being sure when the wind might change; sometimes, indeed, we went in our canoe to another island not far off, called Covalla, to get plantains and pearl oysters, which, as we had but little corn, were our chief support for some time. Having roasted a sufficient quantity of beef and plantains during our being on the island, to be ready to take with us when the wind should serve; and the fourth day the wind being fair, we set sail in order to cross the gulph, which is fourteen leagues broad. Every man took care of his provision, and every one had a hide to lie on; but it raining our hides served for a tilt, and by that means kept ourselves dry.

These Indian Bravos were making themselves a sort of cloathing of the bark of trees, being soft and durable as any cloth; they made a present of two pieces, one of which was as large as a sizeable bed-blanket, and the other I made into a jacket. This stuff was the most useful thing I could have had, for it served me not only for a covering

ing by day, but also to wrap me in on nights, which last conveniency none of us had ever had in this country, and for want of it were almost flayed alive with heat and vermin. This serviceable gift was much diminished before I came to England, having given part of it away to several persons to whom I had obligations, who desired to have pieces of it to keep by them as a rarity; but I have still some of it left.

These were the only Indians we saw that made use of any covering for their bodies; and these, as to the fashion of their garments, are not fantastical, nor so much as think of colours, trimmings, or exactness of shape, but are contented only to make a hole in a piece of this bark-stuff so as to put their heads through, and let one part hang down before, and the other behind; nay, the women themselves make so slender an account of dress, that they only take a piece of this same bark and wrap it round their bodies, so as to cover their breasts, and hang to the knees. In the short time of our stay here I saw a funeral ceremony, performed thus, after the heathen manner of these people, who have no notion of Christianity: In the first place they covered the body with leaves, and then placed a large quantity of wood about it, that, as soon as they had fired, the company, generally pretty numerous, joined hands, and, surrounding

rounding the pile, never ceased singing and dancing till the wood and body were consumed, then they dug a hole in the earth and buried the ashes.

After a stay of two or three days here I took leave of these people, commonly called Indians at War, who entertained me so peaceably and courteously that I have reason to stile them, as well as others, Indians at Peace; but before our departure we got our calabashes full of water, and roasted as many plantains as lasted us three days after, they not keeping longer. Then we took to our canoe, steering our course along shore about east north east, and the next morning found ourselves on the great gulph of Haradura, containing many islands; one of these we saw had a subterraneous passage, like a regular well-built arch, which the Indians told us ran quite through it, and that if we ventured ourselves in the canoe that way, being but one league, it would save us twenty. I desired to be informed if any of them had ever been through it; and one of them told me he had twice, and that the current, which was very strong, ran always the way we were to go, but that, indeed, we should be all in darkness. Upon considering the whole matter, we concluded to venture through it, and accordingly set out in our canoe, and drove along with surprising swiftness. We were about half an hour in

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our passage ; but (as I said upon a different occasion) a man might have thought himself in another world. We had total darkness for the time, and such a terrible roaring did the water make in this cavity as might have daunted the stoutest man living ; and, I must confess, I began to suspect that the Indian who pretended to know this way had only deceived himself and us, and we should never see the light more, for I was sure we should not return the same way we came ; but it proved right, and I begged his pardon. After this we passed another island the same way, which was not above a musket shot through : we felt on the sides in passing both of them, and found them smooth as glass, which was undoubtedly occasioned by the great force of the water. By these short cuts we made such expedition that we crossed this great gulph in three days.

The next day we went ashore to rest ourselves, and to get fresh water ; but in the first place we made a fire, and fell to cutting down bamboes to make a whigwam, while the Indians went out to hunt for provision ; but before they returned my countryman Barnwell was taken so violently ill that I thought he would have instantly died ; on which account we staid here two days, hoping he might recover, but instead of mending he grew rather worse in that time.

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Then the Indians advised that we should take him down to the canoe, and steer away to a place about ten leagues off, where they said we might find plantains, for here were none to be had. Accordingly we embarked with our sick companion, but met with such terrible bad weather in the voyage as I believe greatly contributed to end his days. As we were paddling along shore we saw five Indians, four men and one woman, a little way up the land. We put in here, and carried my poor countryman ashore, he being speechless, and almost expiring. I was greatly afflicted to see him thus in a dying condition, which I knew was hurried on by the late hardships we had undergone. This poor young man, weak and ill as he had been a long time, had nevertheless been exposed with the rest of us to all extremities of weather, hunger, thirst, and watchings, and was still so unfortunate as to fall thus sick in a place where no relief could be had, though these Indians, after the usual manner of that people, afforded us all the assistance in their power.

When we thought ourselves in a fair way of getting out of our misfortunes, and comparing the happiness of our condition with that of our poor countrymen left sick at Alberoy, an accident befel us that soon made us think ourselves the most miserable men in the world. The very first night we left the island

Island of Chira began a storm that lasted five days successively; we soon lost sight of the piragua, and were all that time tossed about in our little canoe, and could see no land. Having no compass to steer our course by, and at last not a drop of water left to drink, our circumstances were truly deplorable; but on the sixth day at sun-set the weather proved calm, and then the Indians asked me what they should do? I told them, if they would paddle heartily, we should find land, which I knew they could not fail of, if we made to the northward; for the land lay east and west, and the wind was about south-east. They followed my directions, and the next day discovered land, called Point Mala, that is, a reef of rocks running out three leagues into the sea; and if we could get about this, then they said we should find a sandy beak, which ran on forty leagues together, where we might come to a killet, or wooden anchor, every night; and withal, that plenty of water might be got whenever we pleased, which as much as any thing induced us to use our utmost endeavours to weather this bad point; but in the very first attempt we were frustrated, the wind beginning to blow so hard as to make us desist from our enterprize; and by this one effort we saw too plainly into the difficulties attending such an undertaking to endeavour at a second, if we could possibly avoid it; wherefore

wherefore we resolved to go back again about ten or fifteen leagues to a place called the Mantoofe, where were no inhabitants, but a good harbour for our canoe: there we went ashore, and made a good fire to dry ourselves and what things we had with us.

We had two petticoes of cotton thread in the canoe, which the Indians were to dye for the governor of Leon with a certain fish found on the rocks, which dye is of a very fine purple, and this work they went about, while Barnwell and I went ashore to rest us. They make use of no canoe or other vessel to convey themselves off to the rocks, but tie up a quarter of a pound or some such quantity of thread in their hair, and fix a piece of light wood across their breasts to keep their heads above water, and so swim off to them: this they do because no vessel can live among them. Some of these rocks lie half a mile or a mile from the shore, and the Indians can never rest on them half an hour together for the breaking of the sea, which washes them off continually; but then they will lie and float on the top of the waves, like so many corks, without receiving the least damage. The method used to dye the thread is only this: they take the shell off the rocks where it sticks very fast, and rub it gently on the thread, and then lay it down again where they found it with great care; for they are very cautious of killing the purple fish.



the weather proves fair, they will dye their thread in one tide of as fine a purple as ever was seen, and which will never fade. The Spaniards call it helo morado, or the lovely colour, and I have seen the thread sold among them for twelve pieces of eight a pound, viz. twelve crowns English money.

We had now been ashore four days waiting for fair weather, and on the morning of the fifth I awoke, and missed three of our Indians; on which I called out to the Indian patron, or pilot, who was asleep, and asked him if he knew any thing of the three that were missing? He looked about, and seeing their bows, arrows, nets, and calabashes gone, cried out that they were houday, that is, run away. Then he bemoaned himself grievously, that as there were but a couple of Indians and the same number of Englishmen left, we should not be able to manage the canoe; but I told him we had no way left but to use our endeavours, and that if we got our things speedily into the canoe, and bestirred ourselves heartily, we might possibly come up with the piragua. This advice was approved, and we began directly to work, filled our little vessel, and then sailed as fast as the wind could carry us; but, instead of coming up with the piragua, fell foul of Pulta Mala again, and there our project ended, but not without our trying many experiments to weather it, which all proved ineffectual;  
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so that we were forced to get ashore at a place called the Legator, where we found a range, but no people. We staid here three days, in which time my countryman Barnwell and one of the Indians fell sick; upon which we found ourselves under a necessity of returning back to Nicoya, in order to get more Indians to our assistance. We made shift to get back to Alberoy in our canoe, where we left it, and were five days after travelling from thence to Nicoya, for the savannas were so overflowed by this time, that if we were not scrambling about, we were breast high in water.

The Nicoyans were greatly surprized to see us enter their town a second time, imagining we had before this got to Pueblo Nuevo, and little expecting ever to see us again; but our business being with the alcaid major only, we went directly to him, and in the first place gave him an account of our misfortunes in the canoe: at this he seemed much concerned, and being told that the three Indians had deserted us in the midst of our trouble, he fell into a violent rage, protested, if ever he caught them, they should be hanged for their infidelity. After this, my chief concern was to hear how my four countrymen fared, who I supposed to be under the alcaid's care; therefore when he had recovered a little from his passion, I enquired after them; but he told me, "They were

were not with him ; for that as soon as they were able to travel he had an opportunity of sending them all together in a bark to Panama, and that he wished we had been so fortunate as to have staid and gone along with them, for that he did not know when he might meet with such another conveniency ; but that, for we were willing to set out again in the same manner we did before, he would order more Indians to go along with us." We gladly accepted the offer, and so resolved to stay till we could have things ready for our second voyage.

The Indian woman, wife or mistress to the alcald major, was also much concerned when she heard of our late misfortunes. She had been a good benefactress to me all the time of our being here before, and often gave me comfortable things for my sick companions, with whom it must have gone much harder than it did, had it not been for her. She was, as I said before, the daughter of an Indian alcald at Constorica, and had a sister, an handsome young woman, and a good fortune ; and when I was here before, she had frequently urged me to settle here, and often talked in high commendation of this young woman her sister ; and, in short, gave many hints that she should be well pleased to have me marry her ; but I ever turned a deaf ear to such discourses. She then did me the honour to make me the of-

fer of being her brother-in-law, in terms too plain to admit of any evasion; and as the proposal was not disadvantageous to one in my circumstances, and made by one that had conferred many favours upon me, I knew not how to behave in the affair, nor what reply to make. The only way I could think of, and not give offence, was to tell her, that as I could not foresee so great a blessing to be in store for me, I had been so unhappy as to put myself out of the capacity of receiving it, and that, as I had actually left a wife and children in England, I, upon that account, was bound by the Christian Church not to enter into other engagements of that nature; which, I hoped, might sufficiently plead my excuse to the young lady, her merit being far beyond my hopes, had I had the liberty of choice. She seemed satisfied with this excuse, and continued as much my friend as ever.

I was not so vain as to think that she made me this offer through any particular liking to my person; but it is noted the Indian women are very fond of marrying white men; and it is to be observed, that all our men, except myself, were sick at the time of the proposal. After a stay of six days this second time of our being here, the alcaid major ordered the Indians he had appointed to accompany us to get mules ready to carry us to Alberoy, it being impossible to travel

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on foot, the savannas being so overflowed; that done, we took leave once more of the alcald and his lady, and set out for Alberoy, and arrived in five days; but had the misfortune (after a storm of thunder and rain) to lose an Indian by the way, in crossing a run of water, which became so rapid by the fall from the mountains that he could neither be saved, nor the mule he rode on.

The next day after our coming to Alberoy we embarked in our little canoe five Indians, and such provisions as the alcald major had furnished us with, and in six days after got about those dangerous rocks of Point Mala, which we had endeavoured to do four times before, but could not accomplish. Then we sailed, or, when the weather proved calm, paddled along shore, and were sometimes two or three, and sometimes four or five days, before we could come to a harbour; but when we did, we went ashore, and made a fire, and set up a whigwam, and the Indians used to leave us to take care of the canoe, while they went to the woods to hunt for provision. Sometimes they would be gone all day, and return in the evening, loaded with plantains and cocoa-nuts, or any thing else they could get, and when we were thus provided took our canoe again, and sailed along shore, the Indians often killing wild fowl from the canoe. After going on in this manner for some time, it

brought us to a place called the Capaces, where we saw several Indians ashore, but durst not venture ourselves among them; for our Indians very much feared them, finding them to be of those people called the Indians at War, on account that the Spaniards could never conquer them, they still retaining their ancient freedom, and continuing at mortal enmity with the Spaniards; nor is their animosity much less to those who live in subjection to them. We were at this time driven to so great a strait that it was impossible to tell the next course to take; we wanted water exceedingly, and could not subsist without it, but then we durst not go ashore for fear of those people; nevertheless, I proposed to those Indians at last, if they would go ashore, I would go with them, and talk to those Indian bravoës, as the Spaniards call them. This two of them consented to do, and accordingly swam ashore with me; but we were no sooner landed than the people we had so much feared came and shook hands with me, asking of what country I was? And telling them I was an Englishman, they hugged me in their arms, giving many tokens of friendship, and then led me to their whigwam, and spread tyger-skins for me to sit on, bringing out roasted plantains and honey, and gave us many demonstrations of a hearty welcome, repeating to me often, that they loved the Englishmen, but

but hated the Spaniards. At first I could not conceive from whence their singularity of behaviour to me proceeded, nor how they came to make so great a distinction between the English and Spaniards, supposing they had never been conversant with either; but at last I heard them mention the name of Chipperton, and then my wonder ceased; for I recollected that I had heard much of one Capt. Chipperton, of a noted English privateer, who used to come amongst these Indians, and by means of a strict correspondence with them had been a constant plague to the Spaniards in those seas. The Spaniards often upbraided us, saying, "That we were some of Chipperton's crew; and that, instead of being relieved, we ought to be punished."

While we staid here an accident happened to a woman which had nearly cost her her life. She going out upon some occasion into the woods, a great tree fell suddenly upon her, and bruised her terribly. Her husband, not being far off, and hearing her scream out, ran and called his companions, who straightway went to her assistance, got her from under the tree, and carried her to their range, almost dead. Upon examination we found her head to be most hurt, for the skull was seemingly dented in several places; I therefore immediately cut off her hair, that we might the more easily inspect the wounds,

and apply the best things we could get towards healing them. This method, with the remedies we applied, had so good an effect, that she grew much better while we staid here, and all the while acknowledged herself indebted to me for the cure; and as she could make me no other recompence for the service I had done her, she desired me to accept of her head of hair, which I had cut off, it being, in her opinion, no contemptible present. Indeed I was very well pleased with the reward; and it being a curiosity of the kind, I was afterwards at a great deal of pains to preserve it among other little things in my nets, and have brought it with me to England.

This hair is very long, and of great strength, is of a jet black, and both to the sight and the touch differs much from that of other women. The owner used to wear it, as the generality of the Indian women do, loosely flowing on her shoulders. One evening the men, who had been out a-hunting that day, brought with them two boars, or creatures very like them in every respect, except that they had two tusks much resembling a French horn, and each of them two navels, one in the usual place of other creatures, and the other opposite to it on the back. The five Indians had been here some time getting gold, which the rain washed from some mountains hard by; this gold so acquired



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quired goes for the most part to the king of Spain, but the remainder to themselves, which they generally lay out in matsheets, being the most useful things they can purchase, because they are frequently obliged to cut their way as they travel through the woods.

The weather having been very stormy all the time we had been here, but being now settled to a calm, our Indians began to prepare for setting out in the canoe, being determined not to slip this favourable change of weather; but the grievance was, there was no possibility of moving my countryman Barnwell, whom I every moment expected to see resign his breath, whose loss I the more regretted, inasmuch as I should thereby be deprived of all society and conversation with my native companions and fellow-sufferers, the enjoyment of which had hitherto been my greatest consolation amidst all our sufferings; but even this consideration did not afflict me like that of being constrained to leave him before his eyes were closed, in a place where I knew no help could be got, though the Indians, who had entertained us here, had promised me to take the best care they could of him, whether he should live or die. Then, as the time would permit me to stay no longer, I took a sorrowful leave, with many melancholy reflections concerning the hard fate of this unfortunate young man,  
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who had been a despairing wanderer in this country five years before he met with us, and had since followed us thus far with great difficulty and hazard of his life, as he was not in a state of health, nor had strength of body to undergo the hardships he met with, and this only with a view of seeing his friends and country once more; but that, after all his toil, all his labour and sufferings, he should be cut off from what he had so earnestly and justly desired, seemed to me the hardest of fates.

Being now embarked in the canoe, the Indian patron sent with us as our pilot on these coasts said, the nearest harbour we could come to was Golfo Dolce, thirty leagues from this place. In six days after we made the island of Caino, but the wind turning against us, and our provision and water being spent, we agreed to row in for the shore as near as possible; and when we came to an anchor, three Indians and myself took each of us a matsheet, swam ashore, and then fell to cutting down cocoa-nuts, that grew by the sea-side. No sooner had we got as many as we thought we could conveniently swim off with but the wind began to blow hard, and immediately so great a sea rose on the beach, that we could not get off the canoe, but were obliged to remain there that night, it being evening when we landed here.

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As it grew dark, the tygers began to make an hideous roaring about us, and the misfortune was, we could find no wood to make a fire; or could we have had one ever so big, the rain, which fell at this time very impetuously, would soon have extinguished it; so that we had only our marsheets to defend us from the voracious maws of these creatures, who soon got scent of us, and were coming to us in a full body. We did not stay for them, but immediately took to our heels; but as we were prevented by the storm from having recourse to the sea, we very nimbly mounted the first high tree we came at. They made a halt for a short space, till at last the most forward of them had the boldness to advance so near that one of the Indians stooping forwards cut off his fore paws with his marsheet, upon which he dropt from the tree, roaring most dreadfully. Hereupon they one and all fell to tearing him limb from limb, and disposed of his carcase in such a manner that there was not the least bit of him to be seen by morning. We did not expect that this would put a stop to farther attempts on us, and therefore sat prepared, as well as we could, against a second attack; but the uproar continuing all night among themselves, they took no more notice of us; nevertheless, often did we wish to see the rising of the sun, which we knew would disperse both them and  
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our fears. I understood from the Indians, that it is the nature of these tygers, whenever they find any of their own species wounded or disabled in an engagement (which is often the case) to serve them in this manner.

The next day, the weather proving fair, towards evening we got to our canoe, the poor Indians we left in her being greatly rejoiced to see us again, having given us over for lost. We rowed hard all that night, and the next day made the point of Barica, about which is Golfo Dolce; but, the wind blowing very hard at south-west, we could not possibly weather it; upon which the Indians endeavoured to get a place on this side the point where we might shelter our canoe; but before we reached it the wind increased, and drove us among rocks and prodigious breakers, so that in less than an hour's time our canoe was stove all to pieces, by which all of us were cast into the sea; but at length we made shift to get safe on shore, and to preserve all our little necessaries. This being the case, we had nothing to trust to but our feet, and the service they could be of to us at this time (I mean as to being able to support us to our journey's end) I could not conceive. The Indians protested they were so unacquainted with this part of the country that they knew no way of travelling but along the sea-side, and said that we had many leagues to go up the gulph before we should  
be



be able to cross it; and so indeed I found we had, for we walked, I believe, fifty leagues afterwards by the side of it without seeing the least possibility of crossing, nor did we meet with any human creature by the way. Indeed we did not want subsistence, because the Indians can always help themselves that way; for with their bows and arrows they never fail to kill any beast, fowl, or fish they come near. We still went on till we came to a fine fresh river, which vents itself into the gulph, opposite two islands that lie partly in the middle of it, the gulph being twenty leagues over. I proposed that we should stay here near the river, and make a balse, as the Indians call it, to transport ourselves off to one of the islands, from whence we might with more ease attain the main land on the other side the gulph. This they agreed to do; but in the first place we fell to making a whigwam, to shelter ourselves in while we were at work; and having finished that we began our balse, which was made after this manner: having sought out five small trees, about twenty feet long, we laid them together side by side, and with two others of a smaller size, which we laid across the end of them, lashed them together very strong; after this we took a couple more, which we laid along the sides of our balse, fastening each of them to each end of those two that went across; the last saved us from  
being

being washed off, and also served us to row on : the whole being lashed and bound together with ropes, which Nature afforded us in great plenty, being only long strings that grew on the branches of high trees, and hung to the ground, being very pliable, and some of them twisted together make a rope stronger than any hempen one of the size. Just when we had finished our balse, and were thinking to launch off, the weather began to be very bad, and detained us here several days after our work was ended ; in which time we met ten Indians, who had been also making a balse, and were going a hundred and fifty leagues farther up the gulph to Barica, being inhabitants there. They proffered to take us along with them, but our Indians refused the offer, because their balse was unweildy, and would go but a few miles in a day. At last, the weather clearing up, having got plenty of fish, and such other provisions as the Indians had got, and the moon being in the full at that time, we took the opportunity, and straightway lashed ourselves and all we had down to the balse, and so rowed off, every man having made his own oar. The weather continuing pretty fair, in three days we made one of the islands, where we staid one day to rest us, and in two days after arrived on the other shore, greatly rejoiced at our safe landing ; for, had we not used the precaution to lash ourselves

ourselves to the balse, we had undoubtedly been washed off.

The first thing we did upon our coming ashore was to make a whigwam: that done, the five Indians took up their marsheets to go a-hunting as usual, and desired me to have a good fire ready against they returned. As soon as they were gone I fell to work, and made my fire accordingly, and laid me down by it very contentedly, till, finding they staid longer than ordinary, I began to be a little uneasy, though I could hardly tell the reason; but, to pass away the time, and drive melancholy thoughts out of my mind, which seemed to be crowding upon me, I got up, and imployed my time in gathering wood to last us all night. Thus I went on, with a heavy heart, till the sun went down, and darkness came on apace, and no Indians appeared: this threw me into a dreadful conflict, as might have been the case with any other man, who, like me, had suspected himself to be abandoned and forsaken in the most desolate part of this wild country; where, as I had been well informed, were no inhabitants for some hundreds of miles round me.

At first I knew not what to think would become of me, nor indeed whether I thought at all; but when I reflected on the constant good-nature of these people in general, I could not think them capable of so great a cruelty as voluntarily to leave me thus desti-

tute and alone, surrounded with terrors, and exposed to variety of sufferings; so that I began to fear they had been surpris'd and devoured by some wild beasts, which immediately ushered in a hope, that perhaps they were only detained by them, as we had been before in the tree, and that, if so, I should certainly see them again in the morning. Thus between hope and fear I spent that night; but as soon as the sun arose, not having patience to wait longer, I got up, and followed the tracks of their feet for above a mile, till I came to a great river, where I lost them. Then concluding they had crossed this river, I resolv'd to do so too in farther search after them; but hearing a great noise of tygers on the other side, and knowing they would take into fresh water, I ran full speed back again to my fire by the sea-side, where I sat waiting two whole days and nights, earnestly offering up my vows for their safe return; but, alas! never more did I set eyes on them.

Thus, after a long series of misfortunes and miseries in company, did I find myself at last singled out from my unfortunate companions to be the most forlorn and hopeless of them all, being, as it seem'd, pointed out by Providence to be cast from the face of all mankind on a track of land where I saw not the least prospect of getting any thing to support life. Amidst all my former fears,  
 toils,



toils, and sufferings, when they happened in common with my fellow-travellers, who were ready at hand to advise with and assist each other, I may truly say that my spirits never once failed me; but how did I bitterly lament my now most calamitous situation! At last, by God's grace, I so far prevailed with myself as to collect some small share of resolution, that I might not perish through any fault of my own, wholly relying on the concurrence of heaven to assist me in what it might be my fate to go through.

Having thus fortified myself as well as I could, when all hopes of ever seeing my poor Indians were quite extinguished, I resolved to travel along the sea-shore while life remained, or till God Almighty should otherwise dispose of me; but at my departure from this fatal place, beholding this whigwam, and reflecting on those that helped to raise it for our common conveniency, I could not refrain from bursting forth into fresh lamentations, and partly in the words of scripture cried out, that surely some evil beast had devoured them, and that those my guides and faithful companions were doubtless rent in pieces.

After taking this sorrowful leave of the place of my abode, I threw my nets across my naked shoulders, and departed. All the provision I had was some plantains remaining of those we got on the island, where we

rested in crossing Golfo Dolce. I took care to keep as close to the sea as possible, believing no wild beast would venture to attack me near it; and this I have reason to believe; for one day, having strayed a little from the sea-side, I observed a tyger (who, I suppose, had dogged me for some time) sculking first behind one tree, and then another, and, as it were, ready to take a spring, and seize me, as a cat does her prey; but, on discovering his design, I immediately ran and threw myself into the sea, and at the same time observed him to be as expeditious in retiring into the woods: by this I plainly found that he was really afraid to come near the sea; so that my fears of those creatures were thereby much lessened, having the sea to defend me by day, and fire by night.

I eat so very sparingly of my plantains, lest I should never come at more food, that I soon grew so weak as scarcely to be able to stand on my legs; nevertheless, in a short time they were all consumed, and I durst not go from the sea to seek for other provision.

I now began to fall into as great a despondency as ever, and I believe every one will think it was not without cause in this particular; however, I still kept moving on, for I could not bear the thoughts of sitting down to starve, while I was able to support myself on my feet, though I saw no possibility of preserving my life. Thus I went drooping  
along

along till it pleased God to bring me to a place on the beach, where grew abundance of cocoa-nuts; I presently plucked some of them, and allayed my hunger; but as I had little reason to expect I could travel many leagues, and be still thus supplied, so I contrived to pack up as many of them as I could carry, and take along with me. Here the sun darted on me with so scorching a heat that I was forced to be continually running into the sea to cool me, and every evening before it set I was employed in making my fire, here being plenty of wood along the coast, that had come down the rivers, and was thrown back again by the sea on the shore, where it lay and dried.

This wood blazed like a heap of torches, and though it rained hard every night, yet my fire never went out but twice all the time of my being alone. This part of the coast was clear of rocks, and the beach a fine black sand that sparkled like diamonds, having great variety of fine shells scattered over it.

As I was walking along one day, in a very contemplative manner, I happened to see a range before me, which much revived my drooping spirits, as I hoped speedily to meet some Indians; but upon my coming up to it I found myself mistaken, for not a creature was there. I saw many prints of men's feet about the range, and in it I found a string of tygers' teeth, which I suppose the Indians

who had lived here had forgot to take along with them when they left the place ; for here were all the signs of it's being forsaken : these teeth I have brought home with my other little things. Here I staid, and made a fire to burn off the hard coats of my cocoa-nuts, and found that to be the quickest way ; for I had been employed many hours before in dashing them against sharp stones to get their coats off ; and besides, I found that after I used this method the nut was much wholesomer for the body than before. I flattered myself with hopes, that perhaps the Indians might return again to their range ; therefore I took up my night's lodging in it with that view.

In the morning I took notice of a heap of sand, which had served me for a pillow while I slept. This I raked up, and found underneath it twelve ripe plantains ; but what different transports seized me at this unexpected sight ! Inexpressible joy, that Providence had made this reserve for the preservation of my life, which seemed at this time to be on the point of forsaking me for want of proper nourishment ; and on the other hand, extreme grief and remorse, for that, after I had so long and greatly experienced the mercies of God to me, I should still persist in my despondency, and, forgetting all past benefits, be ever in doubt of his future protection. After I had refreshed myself with one of these



these ripe plantains, which is of much higher nourishment than a green one, I made a strict search after more, remembering that the Indians frequently bury them in the sand to ripen; but though I found no more, I hope I was not unthankful for those I already had. While I staid here, the moon being in the full, I saw abundance of large turtles come ashore one night to lay. These creatures use the greatest artifice imaginable to conceal their eggs; they come to the top of the beach at low water, and dig a hole about four feet deep, and there lay 100 and 150 eggs at one time, after which they will cover them up so nicely that the place where they lie shall be as smooth as any other part of the ground round about; so that no one, except he saw them in the action, could have the least token whereby to find the eggs. When they have done thus they will go a little way off, and make up a hill or two of sand, where they lay no eggs, and by that means deceive the searcher; but, when I was let into their secrets, I often proved too cunning for them, and would make bold with their hidden treasures.

These eggs I could roast quickly in the sand, which, by the constant heat of the sun upon it, glowed like a furnace. Having waited here four days and finding nobody came, I thought it in vain to stay longer in expectation of company, and so set out once more,

more, while I thought my plantains might be of service to me, and lest the cocoa-nuts I found on the beach should fail.

After my departure from hence I went on day by day with little hope of ever seeing the face of mankind more; a dreadful apprehension! which, with many others I bore constantly in my mind, drove me almost beside myself; nor was all the courage and resolution I sometimes began to think I had acquired of any significance to allay my fears, more than the thorough resignation I sometimes presumed to think I had made to the will of God of any force to expel my doubts of his mercies yet to come. Thus have I been convinced by woeful experience of the little knowledge we have of ourselves.

It was almost sun-set one day when I came to the side of a river, where was plenty of wood, with which I made up two great fires, and placed myself between them; for I had been dogged by two tygers all the day long, but I had kept close to the sea, and whenever I perceived them making to me I plunged myself into it, and by that means avoided them. The next morning I saw great numbers of alligators lie sleeping on the sands, as I had done many times before in travelling round great sandy bays. I had often heard say, that these creatures will seize a man on land, but I never found that they endeavoured to make any attempt upon  
me;

me ; on the contrary, as soon as they heard the patting of my feet on the sand, they would make off with great precipitation into the water. This river, which I was about to cross, was very full of them ; but, I thank God, none ever hurt me. In swimming over this river I miraculously escaped drowning ; for the current ran with such force as drove me out a great way to sea among rocks and breakers, where I lay beating and dashing about a considerable time ; and in that condition could not possibly preserve my nets and bull-hide case, that held my fire works, my knife, and what other small implements I had, besides my provision. All these therefore I lost ; but it was my good fortune to get safe ashore on the other side the river ; where, being again on my feet, I reflected on the loss I had just sustained, supposing all that I had to depend on in this world was gone, and fell into the utmost sorrow and despair. I bethought myself now, that I could have no more fires, either for my conveniency or defence. In short, the apprehension of the dismal calamities, which must unavoidably fall on me through this irretrivable loss, fixed me to the earth motionless as a stone ; so that I judged it utterly unnecessary to turmoil my weakened body any more, and therefore took a resolution to sit still here, and receive my fate, whether

ther it were that I should be torn in pieces by wild beasts, or perish with hunger.

Thus I sat expecting a speedy dissolution of my miserable life; when about noon, to my great astonishment, my nets, with all they contained, were brought safe ashore to me by the waves. How much cause had I then to praise the giver of all things! and how was I afterwards transported to find that none of my necessaries were wanting or damaged, my case having kept them all dry! for, by way of caution, I made it of a hide when I was at Nicoya, before I set out on the unfortunate expedition in the canoes, of which I many times bitterly repented, and attributed all my present misfortunes to my too great impatience of getting to my own country: whereas, had I contented myself to have staid with my sick companions, and have shared their fortune, I might have embarked with them for Panama, and have prevented myself an infinite deal of suffering; but the only thing I can plead in excuse for my hurrying away was, that I believed they would not allow us all to go in one vessel, and that it would be very uncertain when those that should be left behind might have an opportunity to follow those that should go before: but enough of this.

I shall now return to the thread of my narrative. Since Providence had thus restored me my utensils and provision, I was

not



not backward to employ them to the proper uses for which they were ordered me. I presently made up a good fire, and sat down by it to regale myself with my plantains and cocoa-nuts, but with much more chearfulness and thanksgiving than I had done before I was made thoroughly sensible of the want of them. Here I took care to make fresh tinder of wild cotton, which grew plenteously in these parts. Having refreshed myself two or three hours, I began to think it high time to depart, and accordingly took up my nets and set forward: but here was terrible travelling; for the ground was very rocky, and so full of sharp stones I could not set one foot before the other without being cut.

I now began to draw near some very high cliffs, and a point of rocks that ran out a long way into the sea, which was continually beating over it; and about sun-set I came up close to it; but when I saw the sea breaking over it, as we say, mountains high, I found it would be impossible for me ever to get round it, unless it was in a start calm: however, by the time it was dark I made shift to scramble up to the top of a very steep rock, where grew a tree. This seemed a very convenient situation for me to take up my abode in; for from hence I could see when an opportunity offered to get round the point, and be all the while sheltered in the tree: wherefore I mounted it directly, and  
sat

sat there all night. At sun-rise the next morning the weather proved somewhat moderate, which encouraged me to go down, and make an attempt to get round the point, but could not accomplish it by any means; for by this trial I had like to have been dashed to pieces against the rocks, so that I was very glad to desist, and return back to my tree.

Before I came to this place I had been thirty-three days alone; and having waited three days and nights in the tree, in the bark of which I have cut my name, and all my plantains and cocoa-nuts gone, and no possibility appearing of my ever being able to get past this dreadful point, I concluded for certain that this was the place Providence had directed me to, to end my days, though now and then some faint glimmerings of hope would, as it were, dawn upon my sinking spirits.

This tree, my habitation, was about one hundred feet distant from the sea, and I have been sometimes four hours and more getting up and down the rock whereon it grew, as I have taken notice by the sun. As I sat in it one evening I saw a creature come ashore on a sandy bay out of the sea, about a musket-shot from me, the upper part of which was somewhat like a horse, the head, neck, and part of the body, being, as well as I could discern, shaped like the same parts of

that

that noble creature, but the hind-part was in the nature of a fish. It had flat feet, with which it waddled along the shore, and the next morning I saw it take to the sea again. This creature seemed to me as big as any four horses put together.

Though my situation was none of the lowest, yet above me were very high mountains, the tops of which appeared towering one behind another up to the clouds; and from thence descending to me the voices of all manner of wild beasts, the water at the same time pouring down from them with great violence, which, together with the raging of the sea against the cliffs, afforded but a melancholy scene to a lonely disconsolate man, already on the point of being starved to death. Now I had observed a narrow cavity or chink in the rocks through which I could behold the sea flowing on the other side. Now I considered, that if I could compass to get through this passage, it would save me the labour and hazard of going round the point, if even an opportunity should offer for that purpose; therefore, I began the attempt immediately, and pushed on a good way, but at last the passage grew very narrow, and I found great difficulty in pressing forward; nevertheless, I made so vigorous an effort to succeed in my undertaking, that I at last got my head stuck so fast between the rocks, that I never expected to get clear  
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again, and in this condition I lay struggling and labouring a long time before I could disengage myself. By this one trial I perceived it quite impracticable to force my passage that way; therefore, when I was loose, I gave over the attempt, and returned to my station in the tree.

In this tree, though overwhelmed with sorrow, have I sometimes slept as soundly as ever I did in my life, and dreamed of conversing among my former friends and acquaintance; but when I have awaked, and seen no possibility of ever doing so in reality, nor even so much as exchanging one word with any of my fellow-creatures again, I have cried out aloud, that surely no state of life was ever comparable to this of mine; and yet, wretched as it seemed, my desires of prolonging it were so powerful, that I had determined to return and linger out the remainder of my days among the cocoa-nuts I mentioned before; but when I considered this could not be done without once more crossing the river, which had like to have proved so fatal to me, this thought vanished. At the end of four days the weather proved calm and serene, and the sea began to appear as smooth as glass. This I beheld with transport from the rock, and made no doubt but this was the time offered for my deliverance, and therefore taking a hasty leave of my tree, which had sheltered me  
five



five nights, I went as near the point as possible, and waited till the sea was out; then, humbly begging of Providence to be my guide and assistant, I fastened my nets to my back, lest they should be washed away as before, and committed myself to the sea, and swam from rock to rock till I was almost spent, and often near drowning by means of my nets. I was four hours by the sun in getting round this dismal point, after which I came on a deep sandy bay; on the other side, about ten leagues off, was another great point, which ran as far into the sea as that I had lately passed. From this bay I came on a fine strand, but could find no coconuts, nor any thing to satisfy hunger.

At this time I was not only extremely weak through want of food, but also very much bruised and cut, by being beat and dashed against the sharp edges of the rocks; but as God Almighty had thus graciously pleased to preserve my life, I had strong confidence he would not suffer me to die after all, for want of nourishment. Then I called to mind in what manner I had seen the turtles lay their eggs; but as I knew there was no finding them out by any marks on the sand, I got a long stick and struck into it, in several places, till at last it came up with part of a yolk sticking at the end of it; by this I concluded there was a nest, and so raking away the sand, I found ninety eggs.

These I put up in my nets, and then seeked for water, without which my eggs were of no service to me. About noon I came to a great river, where, after I had allayed my thirst, I sought for wood to make a fire; but espying a whigwam on the other side the river, instead of minding my fire I caught up my nets, and swam across to it, and then had the mortification to find nobody near it. Looking about without-side the whigwam I saw an arrow sticking in the sand at one end of it, and within found a net hanging with two ripe plantains, which I made bold to eat. These apparent signs that some Indians had lately been here, together with the whigwam's being new, inspired me with hope that the longing desire I had had of coming among men once more would shortly be gratified. Then I looked about for the tracks of their feet, which I followed till they led me to the side of a wood, where I found another whigwam, and a fire, with an earthen crock full of plantains and wild hog boiling on it. Without so much as considering what I was about, I presently took the victuals off the fire, and eat so eagerly I thought I should never be satisfied. Never had I met such delicious fare as this seemed then, not having tasted any thing for above forty days but cocoanuts and plantains; nor durst I for several reasons venture to eat my fill of them, the  
first

first ill agreeing with my constitution, and the latter I was obliged to be sparing of, as I knew not when I should get more.

When I had eaten thus plentifully of this welcome diet, I instantly fell into a sound sleep, without any fears of what I had done, and did not wake till near sun-set, but still none came. Then I began to consider that I was got to a remote and uninhabited part of the country, and that the Indians, who had wandered hither, might be people of very different dispositions from any I had met; and if they were not of the canibals that I had heard much talk of, yet probably they were such as had little notions of humanity, or, at least, might not once have heard there were such men in being as the Europeans; and that, perhaps, they might have seen me before I crossed the river, and imagining I had company, and was come to surprise them, had therefore fled in haste, and left their provisions behind them; and that, if so, it would be impossible for me ever to set eyes on them. Full of these, and many other reflections, I went into the whigwam to see what discoveries I could make among the bundles of leaves I had seen there, and found barbacued hog, ripe plantains, pepper, and several sorts of berries, all very carefully wrapped up to keep them from water and vermin.

Soon after I had gratified my curiosity this way, a dog came leaping and jumping upon me with tokens of great joy ; this put me in great hope that I should shortly see his master, or those he belonged to ; wherefore I looked about me on all sides, and at last saw three Indians coming down by the river side. How did my heart leap for joy at the sight of human kind once more, though I knew not what might be the consequence of this interview. As soon as they saw me they made a full stop, as if in surprise, and then seemed to enter into debate, whether they should come forward or turn back again. At last I took courage, and beckoned to them ; upon which one of them, who was an old man, came up, and shook me by the hand. I asked him of what Indians they were, and if he could speak Spanish ? He said they were Indians of Barica, and that he could speak a little Spanish. He then called to the other two, who were young men, bidding them come to him, which they did. After this he spread a skin on the ground, desiring me in a civil and friendly manner to sit down. I thought myself happy indeed, and had the courage to confess how free I had been with their victuals, in their absence. He answered, he was very glad I had done so ; for he judged by my aspect I had great need of it. Then he ordered the young men to make supper ready



ready, which being done, he urged me to eat heartily again, and to drink freely of their liquor called Cheely, made of several sorts of berries, and is so strong it will intoxicate a man.

After supper he began to enquire how I came into this part of the country, and of what nation I was? for he was certain I was no Spaniard; upon which I frankly owned, I was an Englishman. He said, he had heard much of such men, and had seen some of them when a little boy, and he loved them better than the Spaniards; for they, said he, shaking his head, would kill me. This man, as I said, was old and hoary headed, and, through long experience, well acquainted with all parts of the country.

I now began to relate to him my story; and when I came to that part of it where the five Indians left me, and never returned, he asked if they took their bows and arrows with them? I told him, No; for they were washed off the balse when we crossed Golfo Dolce. Then he said they must undoubtedly have been ignorant of those parts; otherwise they would not have ventured up into the country with their matsheets only, adding, they were certainly devoured. Then I went on to tell him how I had lately passed the point, by swimming from rock to rock, at which he seemed amazed, saying, it was more than any Indian had ever done; for they,

they, he said, always made a balse to get round it, when there were a good many in company, one man not being able to manage that alone. This point he called Point Barica, and said that I must have travelled a great way along the sea-coast, had I not met them, before I could have come to any inhabitants, the nearest being those of Chiriqui, to which place an Indian could not travel in less than twenty days, provided he kept to the sea; but they knew a way to get thither in nine days, because they would cut off a great part by crossing certain mountains, which they could do in three days, and so come to the sea again; and as they were to go that way in a few days, he would take me with them, and shew me to the river of Chiriqui, where I should be within five leagues of the town; but there they must leave me, because their people were engaged in a war against those of Chiriqui.

The better to enable me to travel with them, the old man made me bathe the wounds I had received in fencing with the rocks with a juice he squeezed from certain herbs; and after they had nursed me up for two or three days, by the help of God I grew much better. The two young men were inclined to come into a great intimacy with me, and wanted to know if I could shoot with bow and arrow; but I made them understand, as well as I could, that in my country they made

made use of guns only, and therefore I was entirely unskilled in the management of bows and arrows: but, to shew me how dextrous they were at them, they would often shoot a small bird flying, or pecking on the ground, at a great distance. I have seen them stand perhaps a hundred yards from a bird on the ground, and mount their arrow directly up into the air, so as to fall down exactly on the bird, and stick it to the earth: and as a farther instance of their ingenuity this way, I have seen them stick an arrow in the ground, and stand a very great way from it, and shoot up into the air as before, and the arrow they shot should fall upon the other that was sticking upright in the ground, and split it in two. These Indians were come hither to dive for pearl.

After I had rested here four days the Indians began to prepare for our intended journey, putting up the provisions they were minded to carry with them, and then set out. After we had gone about a league on the strand they took into the mountains, in travelling of which I feared their patient would have been left behind, they having the natural advantages of exceeding swiftness, and great abilities to labour, beyond the common rate of men; and I was at that time much enfeebled, nay, even reduced almost to a state of infant weakness; so that had they not supported and helped me forwards (contrary  
to

to my expectation as the case stood) I must inevitably have perished: and often would they say, happy was it for me that I had met them; for here were no cocoa-nuts, or any other sustenance to be found, except by Indians only. Indeed I was so cautious of being burthensome to them, and proving a dead load upon their hands, that I often exerted myself beyond my strength.

In five days we passed the mountains, and then came to a river, where was the greatest fall of water I ever saw; it fell from a precipice seemingly six hundred feet high, and raged with such violence that we heard the noise of it two days before we came to it. We were obliged to go down this river, in order to get to the sea again, and we were forced to wade through it, because it was rendered impassable for any vessel by great trees lying across it, some of which we crept under, and some we climbed over; but the current ran so strong that not a man of us could stand upon his legs long together. We began this journey through the river pretty early in the morning, and about sun-set got to the sea-side, where we made a fire, and staid all night. Here the Indians dressed a fine fish as big as a large salmon, which they wrapped up in leaves, and roasted very nicely, and the next morning we set forward again every man with his net. The Indians always hang their nets on their heads, and carry



carry their bows in one hand, and arrows in the other, to be ready to defend themselves against any thing that may oppose them. Their bows are commonly about seven feet long, and made of a wood as black as jet, and as hard as iron, the strings being made of strong silk grass. Their arrows are about six feet long, and made of the same wood as the bows; some have porcupine-quills sticking in the ends, and others are poisoned, and bring immediate death to every creature they hit.

We had now, as I thought, very good travelling, on a fine black sparkling sand as smooth as glass, but very bad for the eyes; for it cast such a reflection as almost blinded me, though we never travelled in the heat of the day, but only mornings and evenings, and by moon-light. We often met with points or rocks, which we could not pass till the sea had left them, and sometimes with rivers abounding with alligators, it being impossible for us to cross before we had made little balsaes for that purpose. Thus we went on till we came to a river about a mile broad, which the Indians called the River of Queype. Now they told me (to speak in their own simple manner) that there were people, whom they called the Queype Indians, inhabiting up the river about twenty days journey from us, who, if they could catch me, would eat me up, therefore we must

must take great care to avoid them. This river is very shallow, and my fellow-travellers told me they always forded it, which was what we endeavoured to do at this time, but the water ran so rapidly now, that we had not waded up to our middles before we were every one taken off our legs, and carried down a quarter of a mile before we could get back again to the shore; after which we were forced to wait three days more for an opportunity to cross it.

As far as we could discern up the country nothing was to be seen but mountains, and here was no way to travel but along the sea-coast, unless you would go up the river among the Queype Indians, which was not our intent; therefore we kept along the sea-beach till we came within a mile of the river of Chiriqui, where these people, with whom I had been travelling twelve days, had said they must leave me, on account of the war, as mentioned before.

They now warned me over and over again, that when I came to the town of Chiriqui I should tell no one who had conducted me thither; and, above all, gave me strict charge not to swim over the river Chiriqui, which they said was a league broad, very deep, and full of alligators, that would certainly devour me, but advised me to wait till I could meet with a canoe or balse; after which they bade me farewell, and I returned

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them many thanks for the care and trouble they had with me, being very sensible, that they might have performed this journey with much more ease and expedition had they not incumbered themselves with me. Then I shook hands with them all again and again, and so parted with these my guides, whom God Almighty raised up in the greatest affliction, and made the instruments to deliver me out of one of the most calamitous circumstances that surely the mind of man did ever support itself under.

Soon after my friends were gone, I got to the river side, where seeing no likelihood of meeting a vessel, I began to make a little baste to cross it; but I had not been long thus employed before I heard the barking of dogs, upon which I desisted from my work, and looking about me, saw eight Indians in a canoe. I called out to them instantly, and as they came towards me, I perceived they were Christians, for they had great wooden crosses hanging about their necks. I begged of them to come ashore, and take me into their canoe, saying, I only desired to be set down on the other side the river; but they desired to be excused till they had discoursed with me a little at some distance.

Then they demanded to know of what country I was, and how I came there? I thought it most to my purpose, at this time,

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to say I was a Spaniard, which I found pleased very well; and afterwards, when they heard how long I had been alone, and what hardships I had gone through, they seemed to commiserate my case, and straitway put to shore, and took me into their canoe, saying, they would set me safe on the other side, and then I must keep close to the river, till I came to a path, which would lead me directly to the governor's house. These Indians were inhabitants of the town of Chiriqui, and were waiting on the river to catch turtle; for here are great numbers of them, and the largest that are any where to be seen, some of them weighing six or seven hundred weight. This canoe, which conveyed me across the river, was made of the bark of a tree, being about thirty feet long, and but three feet broad, and sharp at each end. The Indians always stand upright in their canoes, and paddle them along with great swiftness, and when they cross the land from river to river, as they frequently do, it is the women's office (if there be any among them) to carry the canoe. I have seen a woman carry one on her head with two children in it, besides a good deal of luggage.

Being landed on the other side the river, I took the path I was directed by the Indians, which led me to a fine open country, where was great plenty of cattle, Indian corn, and fruit of several sorts, particularly the finest guayavas



guayavas I ever saw, being as big as large codlings, some of which were yellow, and some red within side. The Indians count them the most wholesome fruit in the world, and here was such abundance that I have seen the hogs feeding upon them as they fell off the trees. Towards evening I came within sight of a house, a thing I once little expected would ever be my lot to see again. This proved to be the governor's, and stands about half a mile from the town of Chiriqui. When I came up to it, finding several Indians there whom I supposed to belong to the house, I desired them to introduce me to his Excellency; but they answered not a word, for they seemed as much surprised as if they had seen some spectre newly risen from the tombs. As I stood importuning them to give me admittance into the house, the governor himself, who I suppose had heard my request, looked out of a window, and beckoned me to come up to him; this when the Indians observed they suffered me to go in, and I readily obeyed the summons. Being led into the room where his Excellency sat, he presently ordered me to give him an account how I came thither; upon which I rehearsed to him the most remarkable occurrences of these my unfortunate travels. After this he said, "How is it possible, that a lonely man, a stranger to the country, and one destitute of all succour and defence,

should travel so great a track of land as lies between here and Golfo Dolce only, exclusive of all the rest, when no Indian will venture along that way, no, not five leagues from this town, for fear of tygers, which sometimes will take people even out of their houses, and devour them."

I told him what I had gone through was not by choice, but through absolute necessity, and that I hoped the endeavours I had used to preserve my life were not blameable; that were I inclined, I well knew it was not in my power to impose idle falsehoods upon the world, when I was sensible I might be detected with great ease. He answered, that indeed he had no reason to suspect the veracity of what I said, though the story I told seemed to him very surprising; but that through the whole course of his life he had never beheld a more piteous object of compassion than myself. Then he gave orders for my refreshment in an handsome manner, and appointed me an apartment in his own house to lodge in. The next morning he shewed me a gun he had bought of an English gentleman at Panama for one hundred pieces of eight, which might cost in England about thirty shillings. This, he said, he should be very glad to have exercised, and if I could instruct him how to make use of it he would reward me well for so doing, for  
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he was entirely ignorant in the management of guns.

I was not a little rejoiced that he had proposed something whereby I might oblige him: wherefore I answered, that I should be proud to receive any commands he would be pleased to lay on me. Then he desired that I would accompany him with the piece to take some diversion in the grounds about his house, which were well stored with variety of cattle, such as horses, cows, and hogs, besides great numbers of deer, and where the most indifferent sportsman could not miss of game. I went with him according to his desire, and when I had shot a couple of deer, and a few small birds, we gave over the sport, and the governor returned home with great satisfaction, and afterwards made me an offer, that if I would continue with him nothing should be wanting to make my life easy and comfortable. After returning him thanks for this kind offer, I told him, that nothing but the strong desire I had of seeing my friends and native country had prompted me to struggle with all the hardships I had met with; and that, since it pleased God to bring me thus far on my way to the English factory, I humbly hoped he would enable me to perform the rest of the journey. He replied, that since he knew my inclinations were so much to go to the English factory, so far should he be from detaining me, that

he would have me conducted by the first opportunity to Panama, which is one hundred and fifty leagues from Chiriqui; and said, that in the mean time I should have the best assistance he could give. This gentleman was a native of New Spain, and one of those people called Mesties. His hospitality and courteous demeanour towards me I have already signified; and I must also not forget that of his wife, who was equally kind and obliging to me during my stay at their house. I wore my bark habit, but it was much decayed at this time, and would hardly cover me, though I had spared it as much as possible when I was not seen.

It was a great amusement to me to go to the town of Chiriqui, which I often did. This town is the handsomest and most compact of any I had seen in the country, the houses being very large and high, built of Bamboo cane, and thatched with grass. The first stories are raised four feet from the ground, and under every house are kept abundance of hogs to fatten; and here I must say are the largest hogs I ever saw, most of them weighing five hundred weight a piece. They are killed chiefly for their fat, which, after they are boiled, is drawn off, and put up into jars that hold about ten gallons each, and sent to Panama, where it is used instead of oil or butter, and sold for twenty pieces of eight a jar.

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The inhabitants of Chiriqui are all Indians, but far exceeding any other Indians on this continent, as well for the gracefulness of their persons as politeness of manners. They are tall and well shaped, of tolerable complexion, have a becoming address, and no disagreeable features. The women have long hair hanging down very low, and neatly braided with ribbons, and adorned with variety of fine stones. Their apparel is clean and slight, being only a Holland shift and petticoat, which is very full, and finely wrought with the purple thread they dye themselves. The men wear drawers, and paint their bodies, and sometimes one side of their faces red. They are generally very exact and nice in their houses and manner of eating, nor will they drink after each other in the same cup or calabash, or use one twice themselves without washing, practising many other ceremonies with a more refined air than could be expected from the natives on this side the globe. How was I surpris'd, that a people of such decorum, and withal both quiet and cleanly in their nature, could dispense with the noise and stench of such a number of hogs feeding under the rooms where they slept, having nothing between them but an open-work floor laid with Bamboo cane; but they told me they were obliged to take this method to frighten the muskitoes from their houses, that cannot endure the

the noise or steam of hogs, by which means they were freed from that very troublesome insect.

During my residence at the governor's house, and at a time when I lay dangerously ill of a fever, came a company of roving Indians into the town, and plundered it of much riches. The inhabitants, being few in number, and unprepared to receive an enemy, were under a necessity of submitting to whatever was imposed on them, and after they had ravaged the town as they thought fit, they committed one of the most outrageous cruelties that could possibly enter into the heart of man. There was but one clergyman in the town, who was a Spaniard, and of the order of St. Francis; him they seized on, and put to death in the following inhuman manner: they first scalped his head, and then tore off the skin, leaving the skull bare; then they fixed the skin on a spear, and danced round it a considerable time; after this they reared up a long pole, one end of which they fastened in the ground, and on the other they stuck his body while he was yet alive, and then made their barbarous mirth of his exquisite tortures, scoffing at and deriding his function, and saying, that this was but a small revenge for that torrent of Indian blood heretofore spilt by the Spaniards. After they had glutted their eyes with this lamentable spectacle they lighted  
up

up a great fire round him, and kept dancing about it till the body was consumed to ashes. With the deplorable catastrophe of this unhappy gentleman their fury ceased, and they attempted to put no other to death; but declared, had they met more Spaniards in the town, they would have served them all in the same manner. After this the enemy, being in number between two and three hundred (men and women), came to the governor's house, who was no better prepared to receive them than the rest of the people; and when they had ransacked the greatest part of it, and taken out of it such things as they liked best, they at last came into the room where I lay sick, and the first question they asked me was, what countryman I was? I quickly answered, an Englishman, taken by Spanish pirates, and cruelly used by them, and was now waiting for an opportunity to get home to my own country. They assured me they would do me no injury; but, on the contrary, if I would put myself under their protection, and go along with them, they would do me all the service in their power, and would also furnish me with all manner of things necessary towards forwarding my intentions of getting home, which I might do with greater ease and expedition by their means than by any other way I could propose; for they were Indians that inhabited on the North Sea, where vessels frequently arrived from

from Jamaica to trade with them; so they had knowledge of the English, and loved them very well, though they abhorred the Spaniards; and as they had never yet been conquered by them, they were determined utterly to defy them and all their adherents. They used many arguments to entice me to go with them, saying, it was but fifteen days journey from thence to the place where they inhabited. I excused myself to them on account of my present weakness; and alledged, were I in health, they would find me far unfit to travel with them, the English not being comparable to the Indians in activity of body: but this was not altogether the case; for I must have been more distempered in mind than body, had I associated with a band of robbers and murderers, who could be guilty of so execrable a deed as had been committed by them but a few hours before: however, they were content with my apology, and marched off with their plunder without the least opposition.

These people are called by the Spaniards *Sancoodas*, or *Musquito Indians*, on account of their diminutive stature, and they are really the smallest-sized people I ever saw, some not exceeding four feet odd inches high; but many are much shorter, and yet every way well proportioned. They go naked from head to foot, both men and women. Their skin is of a dark brown, being marked

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all over, from the shoulders to their heels, in waves, with a sort of blue ink that never washes off. They have long black hair hanging almost down to the ground, and every man has a hole through his nose and chin; that in the nose has a porcupine's quill sticking in it, and in the other they place the tooth of some wild beast. The women have holes in their cheeks, wherein they stick bunches of various coloured feathers to adorn themselves, and when they have a string or two of tygers teeth hanging at their ears, they are completely dressed. These people talked with me in English, and some of them could speak a little Spanish and French. They are all Heathens, and as constant a plague to the Spaniards as the Indian bravoes.

When the governor of Chiriqui had a little recovered from his consternation, he resolved to send notice of what had happened to the governor of Panama, and to require to have some forces sent him, in case the town should be again surpris'd. He propos'd to me, if I was able and willing to go with the Indians he should send me on this errand; he would charge them not to leave me till I came near Panama, and he would order as much provision as would serve me to Pueblo Nuevo; and when I was pass'd the mountains which lay between that town and Nata, then he said I should  
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come among inhabitants every night, who were a kind people, and would assist me in any thing I should want. I gladly embraced this offer, and returned him thanks for having me so much in his thoughts, resolving not to let so fair an opportunity slip, though I was not yet recovered from my illness. The Indians being ready to depart the next morning, I set out with them, having first taken leave of this worthy gentleman, who, though I came to him forlorn, and without any other credential than that of my necessities, had treated me in his house more like a friend than a stranger.

In five days after our departure from Chiriqui we arrived at Pueblo Nuevo, when I could not help reflecting on the many miseries and misfortunes I had undergone since my setting out from Alberoy in the first canoe, in company with the piragua from which we were separated by a storm, as I have already related, this being the place we were then bound to. The piragua arrived here safely with all the passengers, and set out for Panama some months before my coming to this town. After I had applied to the Indian alcald for relief, which he willingly afforded me for the time we staid here, which was but short, I gave him an account of the late misfortunes at Chiriqui, setting forth in what manner that town had been surprised and plundered, and by whom. This  
news

news struck both the alcald and people with great fear, lest the Muskitoe Indians should come upon them, and serve them in the same manner, saying, " They were less able to sustain such losses than the people of Chiriqui, inasmuch as they had greater tribute imposed upon them, and were liable to many other inconveniencies, which those people are eased of." Every single man of this town is obliged to pay the king of Spain six pieces of eight yearly, and every married man twelve, or in case of non-payment to be sent to the mines without redemption. This heavy imposition, with what they are bound to allow the clergy, they account an insupportable grievance, and, were they not very industrious, as well as ingenious, they could not perform such hard tasks. These people make a sort of fine mats and hammocks of cane, and likewise curious baskets of the same, all which they paint very beautifully, and carry to Panama, where they sell them at a low rate to discharge their tribute.

Having staid here one night, the next morning we set out for a town called Nata, between which and Pueblo Nuevo are mountains we were obliged to pass over; but, as I had not yet recovered strength since my late sickness at Chiriqui, this proved a very fatiguing and tiresome journey, it being with the utmost difficulty I exerted myself

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to travel with the Indians, who on the other hand thought me very slow, and had scarcely patience to keep travelling my pace, which was much faster than suited me at that time; however, I made shift to keep up with them three days till we had passed the mountains, and then I told them I would not be troublesome to them any longer, and as they were going upon business of consequence, I desired they would make the best of their way, and leave me to follow them at my leisure. This I knew was a very agreeable proposal, and would be readily accepted; accordingly they took me at my word, and posted away as fast as they could.

Soon after the Indians left me I came to a river, which I found I should not be able to cross on account of the swiftness of the stream, but seeing some Indians on the other side, I halloo'd out to them; upon this they made signs to me not to venture into the river, and immediately sent a boy with two mules to fetch me over, one he rode himself, and the other I made use of; and though the water was not above the knees of the mules, yet it was as much as they could do to stand on their legs.

Upon my arrival on the other side the men who had done this courtesy made me a present of some fine fruit, which both in look and taste is very much like a mulberry, but in size far exceeding, for it is as large as  
a melon.



a melon. They call it the King of Fruit, not only for its excellent taste and large size, but also, if I may be allowed the expression, on account of its high birth, and exalted station in the world, for it grows on the tops of very tall trees, I believe above two hundred feet high, their bodies strait, and smooth as glass. I understood I had three days journey to Nata, and that I should come every night to a house where I might have shelter, which I accordingly did; and in the day-time, when I met any Indians, they never failed to give me of such as they had, so that my nakedness was now the greatest grievance to me; for at this time my bark jacket would cover but a small part of me. The Indians every where among whom I came knew by this bark jacket that I must have been among the Indians at War, because no other people in this country wore such sorts of cloathing; and they were all surprized, that the people they so much dread to fall into the hands of should dismiss me with such a gift. This part of the country is level, very pleasant and fruitful, being well watered.

At the end of three days I arrived at Nata, where I staid one night, and found the inhabitants, who are Indians, as much inclined to favour and assist me, as any other people I had hitherto met; but the next town I came to, which was New Panama, inhabited

by Spaniards only, I met with very different usage. There I could get no relief, but was upbraided with my country and religion, accused of being no Christian, but a Heathen come to spy out the country, the people clammering about, crying out, "That in a little time they should have the English come upon them and cut their throats; but that they doubted not when I came to Old Panama the governor would secure me, and send me to the mines." Finding these people possessed of such notions, and that they had therefore an implacable hatred to the English, I did not think fit to remain in the town that night, though it was evening when I entered it, but got away as fast as I could, and went on till I came to a run of water, by which I made a fire, and staid all night.

From this time forward till my arrival at Old Panama, I met only Spanish inhabitants, of the same dispositions, returning the same answers, when I craved their assistance, as the people of New Panama; so that from Nata to Old Panama, I had nothing to support me but water; for which reason I was so weakened that I could scarcely crawl. Before I entered that town I met some Indians, who, upon hearing something of my story, told me, if I did not apply to the governor before I addressed the English factory it would be resented, and might turn very  
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much to my prejudice; therefore they advised me above all things to throw myself at his Excellency's feet, which if I omitted they assured me would be reckoned a capital crime. This advice I resolved to put in practice, and coming into the town I met a negro-man, who, on my enquiring for the governor's house, led me directly to it, where I found his Excellency's coach waiting at the door to receive him. I staid till he came out, and before he entered the coach, he stopped to give me an opportunity to make my supplication. After making my reverence to his Excellency in an humble manner, I informed him of my country and condition. He said, he was then going to the English factory to take leave of the president Mr. Johnson, who was just on his return to England, and I might follow him thither, where he would hear my case in full. I said, I should gladly obey his commands, and accordingly made what haste I could after him.

Being come to the factory, I desired to have admittance to the president, and after I had waited some time for an answer, an English gentleman was sent from the board to examine me; who, when I had told him my case, said there had been four Englishmen some time since that he believed were some of my company; their names he said were John Holland, John Ballman, Thomas

Rounce, and Richard Banister, and that at their first coming hither the governor committed them to prison; but they were quickly demanded by the president, who had sent them to Porto-Bello, in order to embark for England. I told him, these were my fellow-travellers, and also gave him an account how I came to be separated from them. After this he returned to the board, and informed the gentlemen what he had learned from me. Then I was sent for up-stairs, where were sitting the late president Mr. Johnson, who was now on leaving his employment; the new president Mr. Tinker, who was come to officiate in his room, and also the governor of Panama, before whom I gave a faithful account of my unfortunate travels; but when they heard how long I had been alone, and what I had undergone in general, they all agreed they had never heard so moving a story, that was real matter of fact, nor had ever seen so pitiful an object, saying, nothing was more visible than that I had been near starving to death. Then Mr. Johnson proposed, If I was able to travel on a mule, he would take me with him to Porto-Bello, where one of the South Sea Company's ships, called the Princess of Asturias, Captain Blackbourn, master, waited to carry him to Jamaica, from whence he should sail directly for England. I made answer, that since he was so good as to ad-



mit me to travel with him I should gladly accept the offer, if it were at the hazard of dying on the road. But Mr. Tinker believing I was not capable to perform the journey at this time, out of compassion, advised, I should stay with him, that proper care should be taken of me, till I should recover strength, and till such time as he could conveniently send me to England. I returned this gentleman my humble thanks for his charitable and tender disposition towards me ; but said, if I might be allowed my choice, I would gladly go with Mr. Johnson; upon this Mr. Johnson ordered, a mule should be got ready for me, and the governor of Panama gave me two pieces of eight, wishing me better success in the world than I had hitherto met with. Then Mr. Turner, who is butler to the factory, was called up, and ordered to take care of me, and he discharged himself to me in a friendly and civil manner. The first thing he offered me was a large cup of wine, that no sooner came to my head, but it overpowered me; however, I drank of it but very cautiously, for this was the first wine or spirituous liquor I tasted since we left our ship.

The gentlemen of our English factories abroad very much contribute towards establishing our nation's happy character, and give a true sense of her grandeur throughout the several kingdoms and countries where they

are placed, as well on account of their great charities and hospitalities, as for their magnificent appearance and courteous demeanor, and I hope it may not be amiss to say, that in splendor and popular virtues they come near, if not equal, most of our nobility.

While I was here I took a view of the city of Panama, that stands very pleasantly on a high hill, close by the sea, being of great extent, having several well-built churches and convents in it. The houses are large and handsomely built of timber; the inhabitants numerous, and most of them very rich. They dress exceedingly fine, the ladies wearing nothing but the most costly goods that can be brought from England, having their hair curiously dressed and adorned with diamonds and other precious stones. This town abounds with money, but all things are excessively dear, the least coin that passes here being half a real of plate, that is, threepence halfpenny English money. Here all the plate-fleets arrive from Peru and Lima with immense treasures, and from hence they are carried by mules over the mountains to Porto-Bello, in order to be conveyed to Spain.

I had been at Panama three days when Mr. Johnson ordered me to prepare for the journey, which was no hard task for me, having nothing to carry but my nets, and what they contained, of which I have already given an

account; so the same day about noon we went out of the town, Mr. Johnson being accompanied by great numbers of English and Spanish gentlemen, all mounted on fine horses richly furnished, and attended by their negroes in rich liveries, making up a great train, and a pompous shew. When these gentlemen had thus paid their compliments for about two leagues out of town, they took leave of Mr. Johnson with the usual ceremonies, and returned back. Then we rode on till four o'clock next morning before we could reach a house, but were well guarded, in case of being attacked by the Indians at War, or wild beasts. We had two spare mules, which carried provisions only, there being scarcely any to be had on this road, with six negroes well armed, four of which were our guides, to lead us over the mountains and across rivers. These every night bore great wax tapers in their hands lighted to terrify the beasts, besides their arms. The other two and myself were furnished with pistols, and each of us with a blunderbuss, so that we had not much cause to fear any thing that should oppose us. The next day we came to the great river of Chagre, where we alighted from our mules, and went to dinner under some trees, and having rested here two hours, we put up our things, and crossed the river; after which we came into a wood, where we travelled about three hours,  
before

before our guides told us they had mistook the way, but in going back again we met a company of Indians, who set us right. Before we came up to these people, we had strangely alarmed ourselves, supposing them to be a body of Indian braves, or Indians at War, but we were mistaken. After this we ascended a very steep mountain, where it was impossible to keep on the mules without clinging round their necks; some part of this road is not above two feet broad, having precipices on each side four or five hundred feet deep; so that, by the least slip of a mule's foot, both itself and the rider must be dashed in pieces. By sun-set we got to an house or inn, where travellers and mules are entertained, there being several such houses on this road, and the next morning by day-break we set out, and came down to the river of Chagre again, through which we rode a considerable way over several great rocks, though sometimes the water came over the mules backs; from hence we ascended over other mountains, and after we had passed them we came to the river again. Some of these mountains have roads up them about the breadth of three feet, paved with broad stones, and this was a task (and sure a most laborious one it was) which the Spaniards imposed on the poor Indians, and which, for the grievousness of it, may be compared to what the Hebrews suffered in their Egyptian.



tian bondage. Being now on a clear spot of ground, we refreshed ourselves and mules again, and in the evening came to another of these houses of entertainment, that are placed on this road ten leagues distant from each other, being thought a competent journey for a mule to travel in one day: and indeed it is more than the mules can well perform; for they never come this way loaden with plate, but several of them perish on the road, this being the most tiresome and dangerous road I had hitherto met with in this country, the mountains of Nicaragua excepted, which admit of no comparison.

Having thus travelled at the rate of ten leagues a day, we arrived at Porto-Bello on the fourth day after we set out from Panama, and went directly to the English factory there, and received orders from Mr. Johnson to go aboard the Princess of Asturias, that arrived here from Jamaica with a cargoe of negroes for the English factory. From hence they are sent to Panama, being there sold to the Spaniards for two or three hundred pieces of eight a-head. Most of these miserable people are sent, by the Spaniards that purchase them, to the mines, from whence they never return. As soon as I got on board the ship, I had the pleasure to behold my fellow-travellers Rounce, Banister, Ballman, and Holland, from whom I had long been parted. After we had congratulated each

each other on this happy meeting, they protested they were strangely shocked when they first saw me, as well for the alteration they perceived in my looks, as that they had been informed for certain at Panama, by the Spanish gentleman Quintus Cataline, who arrived here in the piragua, that I and Robert Barnwell, with the Indians that were with us, were all lost in the gulph of Salines in a great storm; and taking this for matter of fact, they had so reported it to the factory; and that, as they were thus prepossessed, they could think no otherwise than that some phantom had assumed my shape, and was come to deceive them. After this, I gave them an account of what had befallen me since our parting, and then they began to inform me how hardly the Spaniards had dealt with them after they left Nicoya; but their account I shall insert by itself, as related by Mr. Rounce, and shall only say a few words concerning Porto-Bello, and so conclude.

Porto-Bello is a strong place, has several castles and fortifications, and a fine harbour for ships, but every thing there is exceedingly dear, as well as Panama. On the third day of our being here Mr. Johnson came on board, when we weighed anchor, and set sail for Jamaica, where we arrived the latter end of January, and there being the Lion man of war ready to carry him to England, he  
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went on board her, and at the same time we were discharged from the Princess of Asturias. The first of us that got passage to England was Richard Banister. John Ballman and John Holland were desirous to stay at Jamaica, to make a further trial of their fortune. Mr. Rounce and I also staid on that island about a month, and then embarked on board a ship called the Mercury, Prichard master, bound to Bristol, where we arrived in eight weeks, in the month of May, 1732, Mr. Hutchins, one of the gentlemen of the factory at Panama, being a passenger in the same ship.

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## SHORT ACCOUNT

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*What befel Mr. Rounce, and the other three in Company with him, after their Departure from Nicoya, to their Arrival at Porto-Bello, and of the Usage they met with, as related by Mr. Rounce.*

*Mr. Rounce begins his Story in the following Manner.*

**T**HE alcaid of Nicoya, having provided us a bark bound for Panama, Richard Banister, John Ballman, John Holland, and myself, were ordered on board, and we were six weeks in our passage thither. The master of the bark, who was a Spaniard, used us but very churlishly all the time; for, as we were sick, and not able to work, he would therefore scarcely allow us either victuals or drink; the most we could get of him being now-and-then a bit of jerked beef, and half a pint of water a man every twenty-four hours, and this miserable life we led till our arrival at Panama, when he immediately delivered us up to the garrison; and being taken to the guard-room, we wrote a letter to the gentleman of the English factory, who immediately sent Mr. Turner, their butler, and another gentleman to us, with plenty of provisions. When these returned, and made our case known to the president Mr. Johnson, he again sent to let us know, that we should go with the first



first mules that went to the town of Chagre, and that he believed the mules would set out for that town in three days, and that there we should meet with a sloop that would take us to Porto-Bello, where we might embark for England. Accordingly on the third day the mules set out, and we with them, and in three days after we came to the river of Chagre; but when we entered the town we were seized on, and sent to prison, where we lay eleven days, and had no allowance but fire and water: however, we did not want subsistence, because the factory had furnished us with provisions, apprehending, as we supposed, what usage we should meet with. During the time of our imprisonment one Captain Thomas, an English gentleman, who is in the king of Spain's service, came frequently to visit us, and did us many friendly offices, telling us we were to go in the first sloop that sailed for Porto-Bello. Accordingly on the twelfth day after our confinement we were admitted on board a sloop; and being arrived at Porto-Bello, we were delivered up to the garrison there, and immediately thrust into a dungeon far worse than our condemned hole in Newgate, where we remained one night, and the next morning were taken out, and set in the stocks for one hour. Afterwards they carried us among a company of negroes and other slaves, who were all fettered and chained as criminals, with whom we were commanded to work at the iron castle, so called on account of it's great strength; but because we were not able to perform such hard labour as the carrying of great stones to the fortifications, the overseer of the business was pleased to beat us so cruelly that at last he broke a great halbert over my left arm: nevertheless, we were forced to work hard all the day, and indeed my fellow-travellers were obliged to do so every day after, during the whole month we staid here; but being disabled by this ill usage, and falling sick upon it, the captain of the castle took compassion on me, and excused me from my labour, and sent for the man who had exercised this barbarity on us, and severely reprimanded him, saying, we were white men and Christians, and were not to be used as criminals or slaves.

After

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After this he had the good-nature to come and see me bathed with rum four times every day. But here we had no allowance, except what we received from the English factory, who supplied us with all things necessary, but could not procure our liberty. Richard Bannister wrote out our complaint to the factory at Panama, and received for answer, that as soon as their snows arrived here, to take up their lading for Jamaica, we should be released from our thraldom, and be received on board one of them; and that in the mean time they could help us no otherwise than by taking order that we should have a comfortable support, and so recommended us to have patience. At the end of four weeks after we received this answer the snows arrived, when we were demanded as subjects of England, and straightway released, and sent on board.

F I N I S.

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